

NORTHWEST ARCTIC FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME II

Northwest Arctic Heritage Center
Kotzebue, Alaska
March 2, 2017
9:04 a.m

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Enoch Shiedt, Chair
Percy Ballot
Vern Cleveland
Louie Commack
Michael Kramer
Hannah Loon
Enoch Mitchell
Calvin Moto
Raymond Stoney

Regional Council Coordinator, Zach Stevenson

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

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(Kotzebue, Alaska - 3/2/2017)

4

5

(On record)

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CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Good morning, all.
We'll get the meeting started back this morning. Take
your seat. It's 9:04 a.m.

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And I will ask Hannah to re-open this
morning's session with a prayer. Thank you.

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MS. LOON: (Gives invocation)

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CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Hannah.

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They're having connection problems with
the radio line, so they're going to keep trying. We'll
start with our meeting. And I'm going to ask, Ray, if
you guys are going to say anything, try to say it once,
because we're going to be on the time. And today
remember that nice ball game at 3:00 o'clock today. If
we finish 2:30 we will go watch the ball game. Let's
put that goal. And these guys want to leave, but if
you guys don't want to leave, you guys know what to do.
So I think I'd rather go to the ball game. I don't
want to see them; I don't know them that match. Just
teasing.

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Anyhow, we'll start the meeting back to
order. We'll go back to -- we have an A to ask. Is
there any more reports for caribou or moose. I think
we're done with moose. Just caribou. 11.a., any more.
Anyone else have report on 11.a.

36

37

(No comments)

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MR. STEVENSON: Mr. Chair.

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CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yes.

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45

MR. STEVENSON: I think you're also
(microphone off) 2, on any other -- any other species.

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CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: That's next, B. Or
we're on that one right now.

49

50

MR. STEVENSON: Correct.

1 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. I'm sorry,
2 we're on 11.b., on proposals. Anyone else out in the
3 audience have a wildlife proposal to submit here.

4
5 MS. LOON: Mr. Chairman.

6
7 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yes.

8
9 MS. LOON: I call for a request for a
10 new proposal.

11
12 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead,
13 Hannah. A proposal on.....

14
15 MS. LOON: (In Inupiaq) We have a user
16 conflict while we are out hunting. Over time in our
17 RAC meetings in Kiana, in Selawik, and we have always
18 addressed about the brown bear doing a lot of damages
19 to our cabins. And sometimes we are alerted as berry
20 pickers there is a big one on the Selawik River Delta.
21 So we are always aware as village people. And also
22 over time there are bears that would suppi (ph) the
23 migration of the caribou on the -- between Kiana and
24 Selawik. And we've heard from RAC members also that
25 bear have been taking the meat out of their boats. So
26 it's a conflict.

27
28 So I am requesting for a new proposal
29 for the Federal subsistence wildlife regulation for
30 Unit 23. Unit 21 will do their own.

31
32 In the State subsistence, we are
33 allowed one bear. When we did brown bear survey in the
34 80s and some had traditionally caught more than one.
35 In those days we were protecting the brown bear to
36 harvest more than one. And now we could propose to
37 have -- a normal hunter will not go out and get five.
38 That's too much for them. And maybe a normal hunter
39 might get two or three, the father and the son. And
40 the season should be -- around June they go out and
41 they are scavenging for their food. They're waiting
42 for the greens to grow; otherwise they're getting into
43 the mountains for the food on the (in Inupiaq) on the
44 flat lands. And they will also look for ground
45 squirrel up there, marmots.

46
47 I would recommend based on traditional
48 seasons from the RAC, maybe as early as June, to -- end
49 of March, or around there.

50

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1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. The way I hear
4 Hannah, she's trying to put a proposal to put our limit
5 down for caribou for up to three a day, and she's
6 worried about the bears. And I know we take one bear,
7 and probably increase it to two bears per hunter.

8

9 Am I right, Hannah? Correct me.

10

11 MS. LOON: I'm talking bout two, three
12 a year. Right here it says, one bear by registration
13 permit, but it doesn't say a day or a year.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. You're trying
16 to say two -- the regulation reads one per year by
17 permit at Kotzebue, Nome and Galena, but you're trying
18 to say you need to increase it to two, which we all
19 would like to do. So I think Hannah's requesting
20 someone put a proposal in for her. Am I right, Hannah?
21 Correct me. Two bears a year?

22

23 MS. LOON: Yes, sir.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you.
26 Yeah, go ahead.

27

28 MS. MAAS: Yeah. This is Lisa Maas for
29 the record.

30

31 And did you also want to change the
32 season for brown bear, because right now it's August 1
33 to May 31st, and you mentioned harvesting in June. So
34 did you want an alternate season to allow harvest in
35 June.

36

37 MS. LOON: Right after the ice breaks,
38 and when you go out way up river to check your -- go
39 back to your springtime camp, your cabin is already
40 demolished, not only once, but four times. So the time
41 that they are scavenging around June right after ice
42 break up.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: You get it, she's
45 trying to change it. What Hannah is saying up the
46 river, which is true, they do, when they start
47 scavenging for food, they do go to camps once in a
48 while, and she want to change it. But she was closely
49 referring to those, that's why I get mixed up,

50

1 referring to the caribou opening days, you know. And
2 you need to clarify a little bit, Hannah, speak on
3 bears, you want to open it in June to late -- what.....

4
5 MS. LOON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
6 request for assistance from the RAC members. (In
7 Inupiaq) Please speak. You know, you are hunters and
8 we all have a user conflict with the brown bear.

9
10 Thank you.

11
12 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead. Go
13 ahead, Enoch. Verne, you will be next.

14
15 MR. MITCHELL: First I would like to
16 agree with Hannah that we do have over-population of
17 bears on the Noatak River, too. And they have been
18 creating lots of havoc with camps, with the migration,
19 with the resources, just about everything they get
20 into. Yeah, we've created now, we're having this over-
21 population with bears, and all these problems. So I'm
22 in favor with going with two per year. I think the
23 State did switch over to two per regulatory year, too.

24
25 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah. Okay. Thank
26 you, Enoch. Verne.

27
28 MR. CLEVELAND: Yeah, I'm a hunter, and
29 whenever I go out hunting, I try to get as much as I
30 could, because of all the expense. Gas is expensive,
31 oil. And we make regulations, then we don't abide by
32 them. And you know how it is to be out hunting and
33 you're just wasting gas, not getting nothing, and we
34 have put to three per day, I would like that three per
35 day instead of five. If you're feeding four or five
36 different families, that's not enough, and you're just
37 one hunter.

38
39 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. I think we
40 need to clarify. You're talking about caribou, right,
41 Verne? I understand what you're saying. I think
42 Hannah's referring to both, and yet the last one was on
43 bear. Correct me if I'm wrong, Hannah. Let's do it
44 one at a time. Let's start with your concern about
45 caribou. Let's back up. How many would you like on
46 caribou per day, and then we'll get to bear later, in a
47 minute. Yeah. Okay. She was talking only about bear.

48
49 Go ahead, Louie.

50

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1 MR. COMMACK: Yeah. My question is,
2 three per day per person put in the boat, or what's the
3 exact number we're talking about? Three per person?

4
5 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Hannah.
6 How many bear would you like.

7
8 MS. LOON: I requested a new proposal
9 for the Federal subsistence regulations to allow the
10 residents in Unaknomani (ph), those that live around
11 here, because of conflicts with migratory caribou,
12 migratory patterns, and destruction of cabins, and
13 taking of meat from boats, they've become fearless.
14 And I'm requesting three per year.

15
16 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead.

17
18 MS. MAAS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just
19 for clarity, I'd like to restate Hannah's motion as I
20 understand it. She would like to increase the harvest
21 limit of brown bears in Unit 23 to three bears per year
22 with a year-round season to allow harvest in June and
23 July.

24
25 MS. LOON: Yes.

26
27 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead,
28 Percy.

29
30 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman. I don't
31 think she made a motion yet, but she's asking for help
32 to develop a proposal. It's on hunting bears. The
33 Federal subsistence allows for one subsistence on
34 Federal lands. And the State one has one bear, and
35 it's allowable for sportshunting, so I don't know what
36 our State and the Federal, and she wants to up it up
37 to.

38
39 MS. ROBISON: Through the Chair. I
40 could clarify what the State regulations currently are
41 based on what was recently passed at the Board of Game
42 meeting in January, to speak to Percy's point.

43
44 For the record, this is Hillary Robison
45 with the National Park Service.

46
47 The Board of Game met in January and
48 passed new regulations for brown bear harvest in Unit
49 23. And what the State currently has is a two-bear
50

1 limit per year in Unit 23. So if this group wanted to
2 submit a proposal like Hannah's right now and have it
3 align with Federal regulations like Enoch mentioned.
4 He was correct saying that the State increased it to
5 two bears per year. So to align State and Federal
6 regulations, you could put in a proposal to allow for
7 two bears per year. And if she wants it in her
8 proposal to include June and July and have it year
9 round like Lisa mentioned, then that is something that
10 could be done. So she could proposed two bears per
11 year year round to the Federal Subsistence Board.

12
13 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Go ahead,
14 Percy.

15
16 MR. BALLOT: Just to clarify, and then
17 for who, all user groups or are we just talking about
18 subsistence? Or all user groups.

19
20 MS. ROBISON: Yeah, this -- oh, sorry.
21 This would be for subsistence users, because it's to
22 the Federal Subsistence Board. I was just clarifying
23 what was already in the State regulations. So if you
24 wanted to align State regulations and Federal
25 regulations, you could put in this proposal which would
26 apply to subsistence users.

27
28 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead,
29 Kramer.

30
31 MR. KRAMER: Also on the State side,
32 they also put the option in there where you could sell
33 hides and skulls from the bears. That clause is also
34 in there. You know, that would benefit the people
35 being able to do the same. At least we ain't doing
36 predator control, we're doing it the legal way. We're
37 allowing people to be able to harvest grizzly bears,
38 utilize the meat, sell the hides and skulls. That way
39 you're looking at doing some kind of control with
40 something that's out of control. The bear population
41 is out of control.

42
43 I wanted to try and see if we can align
44 it with the State, but like Hannah says, three bears
45 and with whatever time limits she has. I know in June
46 and July those things look uglier than sin with their
47 hair falling out and all that other stuff. But, you
48 know, it's like why shoot something when it's uglier
49 than sin then, unless you're just going to eat the
50

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1 meat.

2

3 That's pretty much it. That's what I
4 was thinking.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. I think
7 someone need to -- Hannah is asking for a proposal to
8 increase the take for bear, so you could submit it,
9 someone could second it, and they could write it up for
10 our next meeting. Is that the process.

11

12 MS. MAAS: That's correct, Mr. Chair.
13 Hannah or any Council member can make a motion to
14 increase the brown bear harvest limit and the season.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Mike, make
17 the proposal, please.

18

19 MR. KRAMER: I hereby make a motion to
20 make a proposal to allow three bears per year with the
21 ability to be able to sell the skull and hides with the
22 season and bag limits be unlimited year round as Hannah
23 said.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Someone
26 want to second it.

27

28 MR. MITCHELL: Second.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Seconded by Enoch.

31

32 Verne, you had your hand up.

33

34 MR. CLEVELAND: I can't remember what I
35 was going to say.

36

37 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Welcome to senior
38 moments.

39

40 MR. CLEVELAND: Aren't we allowed to
41 get two bears right now per year?

42

43 MS. MAAS: Under State regulations.

44

45 MR. CLEVELAND: Oh, okay. So Hannah
46 wants three per year?

47

48 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I know what Hannah's
49 trying to say. How difficult would it be to have the

50

1 Federal take more than the State. The State take two.
2 But we're the Federal Board, we could do what we want.
3 We can comply, you know, because I know there's a lot
4 of bears and they do, especially at Sealing Point over
5 this way to our campsite, they start around April,
6 start bothering camps. All the way to Sisolik. And
7 it's happening at Noatak. And I know what she's
8 saying. Predators, the bear especially, especially
9 when they tear up a camp, it get costly. And when
10 we're trying to preserve and we're hanging augaruk (ph)
11 and our white fish at camps, you know, when they eat
12 it, that's taking our food away for the year. And they
13 do it all at one day.

14
15 So it's seconded. And I think we need
16 to have discussion on this from the table and from the
17 -- I mean from the audience and the table for everyone
18 here. Maybe five minutes discussion on it. Anyone
19 from the audience want to discuss this, because I know
20 it's going to pass out of here.

21
22 You heard five-minute break to discuss
23 this. Okay.

24
25 (Off record)

26
27 (On record)

28
29 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead,
30 everyone, get your coffee you want, and we'll resume
31 our meeting.

32
33 Go ahead, Calvin.

34
35 MR. MOTO: On this three-bag limit,
36 what's the permission for like if you had a life
37 endangerment, would that count as part of the three
38 limit that you could get, or that's something
39 different. Because, you know, on the provisions here,
40 Page 19 and 20, it tells you everything about what you
41 can and can't do with a bear. If it's taken for life
42 endangerment, then you have to give the skin and claws,
43 and then the brown you have to also send the skull. So
44 what I was wondering, if they had to kill a bear
45 because of life endanger, would that count as a part of
46 the proposal or would that be separate?

47
48 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Calvin, it's already
49 in there for life endangerment. You could kill it any
50

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1 time you want, and you just make -- like I did, I
2 report it to the Fish and Game, and they had no problem
3 with it a few years ago. So it's okay.

4
5 MS. MAAS: Through the Chair. I don't
6 think that would count towards your harvest limit.

7
8 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: No, it should not
9 count.

10
11 Okay. There was -- after our
12 conference, we had -- I mean what we had a few minutes
13 ago, we could rephrase it to three bear per hunter per
14 year, and we will separate the selling -- a different
15 proposal for selling of the skin and the skull. Just
16 worry about the bear right now, just taking of bear,
17 Hannah's idea of three bear per year. So I need a
18 proposal, and we need to -- because was -- they
19 seconded it earlier, and we need to pull those motion
20 and proposal. We need to pull them and redo it, please.
21 So whoever proposed it, pull it, and the second.

22
23 Yeah, go ahead, Hannah.

24
25 MS. LOON: Mr. Chair. Buck Kramer need
26 to rescind his -- the wording on the selling, so we
27 will go back to the minute and it will be recorded that
28 he rescind his selling.

29
30 Thank you.

31
32 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Kramer.

33
34 MR. KRAMER: Yeah. I'm hereby
35 retracting my motion, to separate the proposal into two
36 portions. One is three bears per year, and the second
37 proposal would be for the selling of hides and skulls
38 for cultural uses to benefit other -- I mean, cultural
39 uses, to sell the claws and hide and skull. I just
40 need Enoch to retract his second.

41
42 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Enoch.

43
44 MR. MITCHELL: I recall my second.

45
46 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. So we redo the
47 pre -- you got his retract his proposal to three bears
48 a year and we'll do separate with the hide. And I need
49 a second on his.

50

1 MS. MAAS: Just restate the motion.

2
3 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, restate it,
4 Mike.

5
6 MR. KRAMER: Okay. I hereby make a
7 motion for bears to be taken -- three bears to be taken
8 per year via subsistence. As Hannah said, she wants it
9 year round, you know, to benefit the people, so we'll
10 make it year round. My second proposal is for the
11 selling of hides and skulls with a limit of two per
12 year. We are taking three bears per year, but with a
13 limit of two bears per year to be able to sell the
14 hides and skull. That would align with the State's
15 proposal.

16
17 And that's all I had to say on that
18 one. That one's done.

19
20 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead, Zach.

21
22 MR. STEVENSON: Through the Chair.
23 Member Kramer, if I understand correctly the selling of
24 the hides and skulls would apply exclusively to
25 Federally-qualified subsistence users; is that your
26 intent?

27
28 MR. KRAMER: Yes.

29
30 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you.

31
32 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: And he's stating two
33 different proposals.

34
35 MR. STEVENSON: Understood.

36
37 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. I need a
38 second on the first one. His proposal for three bears
39 per year. I'll need a second.

40
41 MR. MITCHELL: I'll second. Mr. Chair.

42
43 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Enoch, on
44 the second for the first proposal. Then we need -- do
45 we need to do them separate? I'm pretty sure we need
46 to do them. Okay. There's a proposal for three years
47 per year per person, and there was a second.

48
49 Yeah, go ahead, Verne.

50

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1 MR. CLEVELAND: Is that for residents,
2 non-residents?

3
4 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: For Federally-
5 qualified people on the Federal lands. The State has
6 their own for two per year. On the Federal lands you
7 say we need three bears per year.

8
9 MR. CLEVELAND: Every year I get
10 hunting license -- or our guiding license. Thanks.

11
12 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Go ahead,
13 Hannah.

14
15 MS. LOON: I call for question.

16
17 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Question been called
18 for. All in favor signify by saying aye.

19
20 IN UNISON: Aye.

21
22 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Any nays.

23
24 (No negative votes)

25
26 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: No. Go ahead, Kramer
27 on your second proposal.

28
29 MR. KRAMER: Okay. My second proposal.
30 I hereby make a motion for my second proposal for the
31 allowing of bear hides and skulls with a limit of two
32 per year. That would align with the State of Alaska's
33 proposal. They have a harvest of two bears per year,
34 and they're allowed to sell two hides per year. So we
35 have -- on the Federal side have three bears per year
36 with the allowable sale of two bears per year.

37
38 And it will benefit the people. The
39 reason why we want it to benefit the people is because
40 it will not only help them financially, it will help,
41 you know, with the bear populations since we're unable
42 to do predator control. It will help have less
43 conflicts within the communities, the camps. You know,
44 I hope and pray that one day we don't get nobody, a
45 little girl killed out there by somebody's camp because
46 there's a lot of bears. So that's one of the reasons
47 why I'd like to see this proposal, these two proposals
48 get put in.

49
50

1 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Kramer.
2 We have this proposal. I need a second.

3
4 MR. CLEVELAND: Second.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Second by Verne.

7
8 Any discussion on this. Go ahead.

9
10 MS. HARDIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
11 This is Jennifer Hardin from OSM for the record.

12
13 I have a question about your motion.
14 Currently in Unit 23 Federal regulations allow for the
15 sale of handicrafts that include the hide of a brown
16 bear. So that's already allowed in regulation, as long
17 as it's a handicraft, that's a hide that's being sold
18 as a handicraft, which means alteration of the hide in
19 some way.

20
21 So is there something different that
22 you're requesting than is already allowed under Federal
23 regulations regarding the hide, or is the existing
24 regulation sufficient and you would like to focus on
25 brown bear skulls.

26
27 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Hannah.

28
29 MS. LOON: Traditionally we don't
30 engage in handicraft or alter the animal. We only eat
31 the meat and the fat. And the hat traditionally is
32 left out there. And we should not be -- I mean, we
33 just don't make handicraft out of it. It's a fearful
34 thing for any human, Inupiat human to do such. It's
35 just a basic understanding from the elders not to. We
36 never have been told to do that all our lives, other
37 than sustaining our life, and we have to remove the
38 part under here and put it in a stick, and put it on
39 the ground, and that thing is anger. Anger that we
40 have to follow the traditional law and these guys will
41 agree.

42
43 And on the hide, we don't really care
44 for. We just care for the fat, and we care for the
45 meat, but we don't care for the meat and fat from the
46 things that walk on the coast, because they eat
47 carrion. So those things don't matter to us, the head
48 and the hide.

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1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Hannah.

4 Yeah, go ahead.

5

6 MS. HARDIN: I just wanted to thank --
7 through the Chair. Thank you, Ms. Loon. for the
8 clarification. That clarifies the intent for me.

9

10 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Anyone else from the
11 Board.

12

13 MR. BALLOT: Yeah, Mr. Chairman. What
14 I'm understanding is that it's already allowable, this
15 proposal that he's trying to do to allow for sale,
16 right, of handicraft and whatnot, but it's already
17 allowable in the Federal regs. So are we really going
18 to need to put a proposal.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: That's what I'm
21 hearing so far. Except the skull, right?

22

23 MS. MAAS: Well, Jennifer can come
24 correct me if I'm wrong, but this is for handicrafts,
25 so you're taking the hide and making a craft out of it
26 versus selling the hide without any alteration.

27

28 MR. CLEVELAND: Yeah.

29

30 MS. MAAS: Is that?

31

32 MR. CLEVELAND: Yeah.

33

34 MS. HARDIN: Yes, that's correct, that
35 the intent is to sell a hide without alteration,
36 correct? Yes. Then in that case, that is not provided
37 for currently in Federal regulation, so proposal would
38 be the way you would want to go if you want to pursue
39 that.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. So under
42 the Federal lands, if we alter it -- because it's
43 allowed -- well, it's altering when we skin the caribou
44 without punching a hole. That's a lot of work. It's
45 more like altering it, because most of the time a young
46 kid, they don't care, they just skin it and they make a
47 hole on it. But the one without a whole is a miracle.
48 And if need to be, we will put a proposal to -- not to
49 alter the skin. Not to, you know, just work on it,

50

1 just sell it just the way it is. That's what Mike
2 Kramer's proposal is all about. So we really need to
3 -- it will be a different thing.

4
5 Go ahead, Hannah.

6
7 MS. LOON: Thank you. I just want to
8 say that it was not us or our prior Inupiat people that
9 wrote these, make to handicrafters. It was not them
10 that write that. So it's against our beliefs, period.

11
12 Thank you.

13
14 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Hannah.

15
16 What's the wish of the Board here. I'm
17 open. Ready to vote on this, on Michael's, with the
18 understanding proposal. Okay.

19
20 All in favor signify by saying aye.

21
22 IN UNISON: Aye.

23
24 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Opposing say by the
25 same sign.

26
27 (No opposing votes)

28
29 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: All in favor passed.
30 Okay. Thank you.

31
32 Are we now done with the wildlife
33 proposals. Can we move on.

34
35 (No comments)

36
37 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. We're done
38 with B. We need to go to C, approve FY 2016 annual
39 report, by DFO. Who's going to present that?

40
41 And I will say welcome to the radio
42 land whenever we get connected.

43
44 Go ahead, Zach.

45
46 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

47
48 Following along the agenda -- we'll
49 wait for the phone to teleconference us in.

50

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1 Following along the agenda, we're now
2 on item 11.c., new business, approval of the FY 2016
3 annual report. The annual report is included in Page
4 23 of your meeting books. That has been provided for
5 the Council's review. This is the opportunity now to
6 make any modifications, edits, or changes to the annual
7 report, and then it's the opportunity for the Council
8 to approve the annual report as provided in your
9 meeting books.

10

11 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

12

13 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. On your
14 meeting books, it's our Chair, Anthony Christianson.
15 If you want to take a quick look at it, I'll give you a
16 couple minutes. I read it already.

17

18 MR. STEVENSON: Through the Chair.
19 This is the item included in your meeting books, the
20 annual report. Bear with me just a moment, I'm bring
21 it up electronically now. It appears as though the
22 page is not consistent with what's featured in the
23 agenda. Bear with me just a moment while I bring it up
24 electronically.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: It's on Page 23 on
27 our handouts. If everyone look at it, and correct me,
28 Zach is trying to look at it electronically. And on
29 bullet number 3 he stated that we take a reduction,
30 reduce bag harvest limits on Federal public lands. And
31 that's on bold number 3, if you have interest in
32 reading a piece, look at that carefully.

33

34 MR. STEVENSON: Mr. Chair.

35

36 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: And on this, what
37 he's saying is it's from five per person, that's
38 already, you know, a regulation in place, and he's
39 trying to say we should take three caribou per day per
40 person.

41

42 Go ahead, Zach.

43

44 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
45 You are correct, the annual report submitted to the
46 Federal Subsistence Board is featured on Page 23 of
47 your meeting books. At the top of the page you'll see
48 the name of our Chairman, Anthony Christianson, with a
49 letter to Mr. Christianson, and several numbered items

50

1 that state the interest of the Council as presented to
2 the Federal Subsistence Board in the annual report.
3 And if you would like, I'd be happy to briefly
4 summarize those key points that were in the annual
5 report, if that would be of interest to the Council.

6
7 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

8
9 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yes, if you would
10 summarize, make it brief due to time, please.

11
12 MR. STEVENSON: Absolutely. Item
13 number 1 was a mention of the benefits, the perceived
14 benefits to Federally-qualified subsistence users
15 regarding -- excuse me, resulting from the closure of
16 Federal public lands in Unit 23 to caribou hunting by
17 non-Federally-qualified users. And on Page 23 of your
18 meeting books, more information can be found on that
19 point.

20
21 Following on Page 24 of your meeting
22 books, item number 2 in the annual report and letter to
23 the Chairman, was the expression from the Council of
24 the need for Federal agencies to exercise precaution
25 when managing the rapidly changing subsistence
26 resources and uses in the Northwest Arctic, again with
27 more detailed information to follow under that item
28 number 2.

29
30 Continuing at the bottom of Page 24 in
31 your meeting books was item number 3 in the annual
32 report addressing the need to reduce caribou harvest
33 bag limits and maintain the closure of Federal public
34 lands in Unit 23 to caribou hunting by non-Federally-
35 qualified users. And again that's at the bottom of
36 Page 24.

37
38 And that concludes the substance of the
39 annual report submitted to the Federal Subsistence
40 Board.

41
42 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

43
44 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: So is there a
45 proposal or do we need a proposal on Page 24 for bullet
46 number 3.

47
48 Yeah, go ahead, Percy.

49
50

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1 Mr. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman. I respect
2 what you guys say there. What I'm hearing is that this
3 Board here is recommending to the Board to change
4 caribou hunting limits from five to three in this
5 letter.

6
7 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yes, that's what
8 happened in Selawik.

9
10 Go ahead, Zach.

11
12 MR. BALLOT: I'm not done yet. You
13 know, I don't think -- you know, I don't hunt very much
14 and get five or even three, but there's a lot of people
15 that go up with boats and stuff and hunt with boats.
16 And it's going to make it really hard for those folks
17 that are going to go out here from Kotzebue or from
18 Noatak or wherever they need to go up the river, and
19 just go hunt for three caribou with all the cost of gas
20 and stuff.

21
22 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. I understand
23 what you're saying. And what it is, is -- really what
24 it is, is from five per day per person. Or what it --
25 this is three per day per person. So if you have three
26 people in the boat, you could get nine. Okay. That's
27 misleading. I think whoever do this minutes needs to
28 explain this a little bit. That way there won't be any
29 confusion.

30
31 Go ahead, Verne.

32
33 MR. CLEVELAND: Yes, I was confused
34 about that, too. It's three per day per person, and
35 that's good.

36
37 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, that's good.
38 Yeah. Okay.

39
40 MR. CLEVELAND: I heard that, and I
41 think that was in Kiana, they had a meeting. I heard
42 that was going down to three per day per person. Not
43 per boat, I hope.

44
45 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, that also
46 happened at Selawik and Kiana. Yes.

47
48 MR. CLEVELAND: Thank you.

49
50

1 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: We were talking, if
2 they keep reducing, so -- and that's what it is in --
3 do we have a proposal on this for the Board to approve
4 or not, to take -- now that I remember, when we did
5 this closure, we said from 15 we went down to 5 per
6 day. I'm asking our coordinator, do we need to put a
7 proposal on this and make it pass at this meeting? Go
8 ahead, Zach.

9
10 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
11 The information that is reflected under item number 3
12 on Page 24 of your meeting books is taken directly from
13 the transcripts that are provided. So I'm wondering if
14 we would want to, if need be, revisit those transcripts
15 which addresses the numbers that are reflected here in
16 the annual report. I know that we have -- we're now on
17 the review of our annual report, and I'm unclear with
18 protocol if we would need to -- if we are allowed to go
19 back and revisit wildlife proposals to address Member
20 Ballot's question. And I'm trying to clarify, one, the
21 content in the annual report, and, two, address
22 protocol regarding if we need to revisit the wildlife
23 proposals to address that point.

24
25 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, I understand
26 what you're saying, but what I'm trying to do is since
27 we proposed from five to three a day, a simple question
28 is do we need to put a proposal now. That way it could
29 take effect into regulation on the next cycle for the
30 Federal. That's all I'm trying to do, and don't mix us
31 up no more.

32
33 MS. MAAS: Through the Chair. Yes.

34
35 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead.

36
37 MS. MAAS: Yes. The answer to your
38 question is yes, you do need to take.....

39
40 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Under Native
41 layman terms, I'm trying to -- go ahead. Correct.

42
43 MS. MAAS: Yes, if you want to decrease
44 the harvest limit for caribou from five per day to
45 three per day, now is the time to submit a proposal.

46
47 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead.

48
49 MR. COMMACK: Okay. For clarification,

50

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1 what we're talking about is on Federal lands, not on
2 the river.

3
4 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yes, sir.

5
6 MR. COMMACK: Could you clarify that,
7 please?

8
9 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah. What we were
10 going to do is it's all on Federal lands, not the State
11 lands. It's just in the Federal lands.

12
13 MR. COMMACK: So currently we're
14 dealing with five per day per person on the river.
15 That's what we have right now.

16
17 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: On Federal lands on
18 the river. On the Federal lands on the river.

19
20 MR. COMMACK: Okay.

21
22 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. So.....

23
24 MR. COMMACK: I just wanted
25 clarification that we're not getting mixed up between
26 the river and the Federal land.

27
28 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Thank
29 you.

30
31 So I need a proposal to -- or you guys
32 hear what I'm saying, and you write it up. On Federal
33 lands we could -- for the Western Arctic Caribou Herd
34 on the Federal land, we take a reduction from five a
35 day to three a day per person on Federal lands and
36 waters.

37
38 Yeah, go ahead, Enoch.

39
40 MR. MITCHELL: Mr. Chair. Could we go
41 back to the agenda item and finish the report before we
42 get into proposals.

43
44 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Could you restate
45 that. I didn't.....

46
47 MR. MITCHELL: Could we go back to
48 agenda and finish the item on the report before getting
49 into anything else like proposals.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, Enoch, what I
2 tried to do, since this is on the -- it's a report
3 already, in order to take effect, we need to put it on
4 proposal. But if you want to go on, I guess we can't
5 put a proposal together. We're just going to skip it
6 and it's going to stay five a day now.

7
8 MR. MITCHELL: We're on the agenda it
9 stated that we have to approve annual report, not to do
10 proposals, so if we can go ahead and do that. Thank
11 you.

12
13 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Zach.

14
15 MR. STEVENSON: To maintain order on
16 the agenda, we have passed item B on the agenda, which
17 was the call for proposals. We're now on item C.
18 We're now on item C, approval of the annual report.
19 And to maintain protocol, I am suggesting through the
20 Chair that if we need to make any corrections or
21 modification to the annual report, that we do that,
22 since we're on item 11.c. the approval of the annual
23 report. And if need be, if we need to modify or add
24 any additional wildlife proposals that we follow
25 protocol and address that next. But right now we're on
26 the approval of the annual report, and we're looking
27 for any changes or modifications or corrections that
28 need to be made to the annual report.

29
30 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. For approval
31 of the report, I need a proposal to approve it and then
32 I'll need a second.

33
34 Go ahead, Hannah.

35
36 MS. LOON: I make a motion to approve
37 the FY 2016 annual report.

38
39 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Hannah.
40 Do I have a second.

41
42 MR. CLEVELAND: Second.

43
44 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Second by Verne.

45
46 MR. CLEVELAND: Call for question.

47
48 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Question been called
49 for. All in favor signify by saying aye.

50

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1 IN UNISON: Aye.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: So since we're on
4 11.c., it look like we need to put a proposal together
5 to make from five a day to three a day. Is that what
6 you're saying now. That way we could get the Federal
7 Subsistence.....

8

9 MS. MAAS: Yeah. Through the Chair, I
10 mean, that's number 3 on your annual report, so if you
11 would like to do that, yes, now is the time to submit a
12 proposal.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: What is the wish of
15 the Board?

16

17 MS. MAAS: And this is -- just
18 clarification, this is Lisa Maas for the record.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Some of us do hunt on
21 Federal lands, you know, because a proposal gets done.
22 Because some of us do from Kotzebue.

23

24 MR. CLEVELAND: So you need a motion?

25

26 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I need a motion.

27

28 MR. CLEVELAND: I'll make a motion that
29 we do five -- three caribou per day per person from
30 five. Is that how it works? Okay. Thank you.

31

32 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yes. Thank you. I
33 need a second.

34

35 MR. KRAMER: Second.

36

37 MR. COMMACK: I second.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Louie.

40

41 MR. COMMACK: Second.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Percy.

44

45 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman. I was
46 trying to look at where it says per person, so can I
47 get clarification from whoever that that's what it is,
48 or.....

49

50

1 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, but.....

2
3 MR. BALLOT:we're putting it in?

4
5 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Remember earlier I
6 stated that it should -- when they did the report, they
7 should have said that through this report. Per day.
8 And it's right now under regulation on the Federal
9 lands is five per day per person. So we need to take
10 it five per day, three per day per person. If you have
11 four, you could get up to 12. I'm trying to keep it as
12 simple as possible. We need to keep on going.

13
14 Anyone else from the Board. Go ahead,
15 Raymond.

16
17 MR. STONEY: Thank you. (Microphone
18 off) Excuse me. I need a clarification on the bag
19 limit. You said if you are willing to go hunt, and
20 then you're legalized three caribou per person;
21 otherwise, if I take my family, I take two more besides
22 me, that's nine. I need a clarification on that. So
23 that, you know, if there's five of them, you get 25.

24
25 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, I know what
26 you're saying.

27
28 MR. STONEY: Per person within that
29 boat.

30
31 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, you know, we
32 never load more than what our boat could handle or what
33 we could handle in a day.

34
35 Go ahead. For clarification, go ahead.

36
37 MS. MAAS: Sorry, Lisa Maas for the
38 record.

39
40 And just for the record I need to
41 clarify Louie's concern about the lands and waters.
42 And when you say Federal lands, that includes the
43 waters, too.

44
45 MR. COMMACK: The water, yeah.

46
47 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, as I stated
48 earlier, in Federal land and waters.

49
50

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1 MR. BALLOT: And, Mr. Chair, my
2 question was I wanted to clarify where it says per
3 person, but you said it's in the regs. It's not there
4 it sound like, but it's meant to be.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah. Yeah. We did.
7 And that's why earlier I stated on there when they type
8 up this pages, that -- remember, we said that at our
9 meetings in Kiana and at Selawik, per day. And I think
10 when we look at these minutes and we do things, we need
11 to read them a little bit better, because I know it's
12 just probably overlooked. And I know it's three per
13 day. I mean five per day, I'm sorry.

14
15 MR. BALLOT: Yeah. I just want to make
16 sure, you know, for the record, because -- and clarify
17 for the record, because somebody could change this, and
18 if it doesn't say per day in there, then they could
19 change it, whoever manages can change it and say, you
20 can only get five per day, so.....

21
22 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I understand what
23 you're saying, so whoever do these reports, we need to
24 start stating exactly what we say, so there won't be
25 confusion in the future. Zach, keep on top of it,
26 please.

27
28 Go ahead, Hannah.

29
30 MS. LOON: You mentioned about the
31 wordage of -- maybe this would help, Three caribou per
32 subsistence per hunter or per registered hunter on
33 Federal and water.

34
35 Thank you.

36
37 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Hannah.
38 Yes, it's per.....

39
40 UNIDENTIFIED: Nope, I'm still on.

41
42 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: You have something on
43 the radio land or.....

44
45 (No comments)

46
47 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: If not, please turn
48 your mute on your phone. Thank you.

49
50

1 Go ahead, Calvin.

2

3 MR. MOTO: I see on this caribou, three
4 -- they have all the rivers, but then it says remainder
5 of 23. Will that also include them to be three per
6 day, because our river don't go -- we have
7 Nugnugaluktak, and we have Lane River and we have, you
8 know -- so I was wondering if that remainder 23 would
9 be included in this, or would that be separate?

10

11 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Calvin, we're talking
12 about the Federal lands and waters. If you're on
13 Federal land, that's what we're talking about right
14 now. If it's on different, and State land is a
15 different thing completely. I understand what you're
16 saying, you've got a concern in your area.

17

18 So I need someone to tell him, Lane
19 River, from Deering it's about 20 miles down the coast.

20

21 MS. MAAS: Okay. Yeah. Through the
22 Chair. My understanding of the intent is for this
23 proposed rule to apply for all of Unit 23 on Federal
24 public lands. All Federal public lands in Unit 23.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: You got it, Calvin?

27

28 MR. MOTO: (Indicates affirmative)

29

30 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. There's a
31 proposal, there was a second. Ready for our vote.

32

33 Or let me ask, anyone from the audience
34 here would like to say something. Go ahead, Nelson.
35 Come up to the mic, state your name for the record.

36

37 MR. NELSON: Good morning. My name is
38 Charlie Nelson. I'm not here representing anyone in
39 any capacity other than myself.

40

41 I just wanted to get the clarification
42 of the need of this proposal to clarify.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: This proposal, we
45 take five a day per person. That's the way the
46 regulation was written last year.

47

48 MR. NELSON: Yeah, I understand that.
49 But the need for it. Right now the Western Arctic

50

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1 Caribou Herd Working Group hasn't made this proposal
2 yet. So I'm wondering why this Board right now is
3 already proposing this to the Federal Subsistence Board.

4
5 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Because the caribou
6 were still declining at the time when we had the
7 meeting last year.

8
9 MR. NELSON: Okay. And so you're
10 concerned of more of that also. I am just trying to
11 understand the need for this without -- I know that
12 there's a lot of confusion here it seems by the Board
13 as to what is Federal lands, what is Federal waters,
14 what is the need is. But no one's actually talked
15 about the actual need for this proposal. I just wanted
16 that clarified, please, for the record.

17
18 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead, Mike.
19 You'll be next, Walter.

20
21 MR. KRAMER: Kramer here. One of the
22 reasons why we are dropping our harvest limit is
23 because, you know, we also want to take a cut, too,
24 because one thing that will really make that 17-0
25 whatever, the new special action request pass is if we
26 start taking reductions. And that will help that
27 special action request and that other regulatory
28 proposal that we have most likely pass, because of the
29 fact that we are taking a cut also. Because they'll
30 look at it and they'll say, okay, well, do they want to
31 continue this? And they'll say, oh, look, they're
32 taking a cut also on their harvest limits. So they'll
33 say, well, let's go ahead and pass it, because they are
34 looking at taking a cut on their harvest. They're
35 looking at taking conservative measures. They want to
36 preserve the herd, and so they're looking at, you know,
37 the preservation of the herd also. That way we look --
38 it looks at us like we're taking part in the
39 preservation. And that's my thought on that.

40
41 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Walter.
42 Walter had his hand up first. You'll be next, Hannah.

43
44 MR. SAMPSON: (In Inupiaq) First of
45 all, I want to thank you for the opportunity to come
46 before you. It's an honor.

47
48 You as a Regional Advisory Council have
49 a critical and an honored position to represent the
50

1 people of this region in regards to taking resources
2 and how resources will be taken. People will be
3 dependent on you, on the decisions that you make. The
4 process that you have to go through to look at what you
5 support, what you don't support, and why you don't
6 support, and why you support. It's critically important.

7
8 For decades, the State of Alaska has
9 been in the management of resources, and we know the
10 State's position today. Both the State of Alaska and
11 the Federal system don't have all the money they used
12 to have in regards to allocating dollars for management
13 of their lands.

14
15 The State of Alaska has a process that
16 they go through to receive proposals, and there's no
17 equity in the State of Alaska Board. So if you're in
18 Bush Alaska, many times you are the recipient of a
19 proposal that's been adopted for other people somewhere
20 else. And hopefully that will change.

21
22 It's clear in ANILCA and how ANILCA is
23 written in regards to taking of resources and what the
24 Feds should do when there is a decline.

25
26 Since 2003, 500,000 caribou was at its
27 maximum. Through the course from 2003 to 2015, that
28 herd went down. And last year we heard the last count
29 was 200,000. That's 300,000 smaller than what it was
30 then. The bad part about that is the State of Alaska
31 knew that the caribou was on the decline, but they
32 continued to pass proposals in taking of the caribou.
33 I don't know where they learned their management
34 scheme, but it's a scheme that benefits somebody else
35 somewhere.

36
37 You're talking about people in this
38 region that live off these resources. As cost of
39 living continues to rise in this region, it's going to
40 take and be much harder to pass proposals. Recognizing
41 and understanding how the Federal is set up now, you're
42 on the driving force from the region to bring proposals
43 to the Federal Board.

44
45 And it's critically important for you
46 to understand the definitions and the differences of
47 the discussion. The issue in regards to the
48 determination of water body within the State, the water
49 body within Federal lands. There's different court
50

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1 cases that's in place that allows for decisions to be
2 made based on those things. And it's critically
3 important that we all understand what you're doing.

4
5 In this case your discussion is a
6 report that came in from the Chairman of the Federal
7 Board with those things that have been identified. And
8 it's critically important to all of us that you are
9 clear in regards to the determination of what you want
10 to do and how you want to do it, recognizing you
11 represent the people of this region. The best thing
12 that you could ever do as a group is have your meetings
13 earlier than before the Federal Board meets, is to get
14 all the information together with the input from the
15 villages who would be impacted by the process, and get
16 their support in that way than doing a proposal from
17 this group without any discussion at the village level.

18
19 You also need to understand the NANA
20 lands that were within managed hands are also resources
21 within those lands, State of Alaska managed. And
22 that's the Federal lands that we talk about in this
23 case when you talk about take of resource, and clearly
24 understand that process.

25
26 I think what Charlie asked, he was
27 asking for clarity in regards to the determination of
28 the take of resource. With a decline in place which is
29 continuing to be the case, it's going to get down to
30 the point of maybe even taking two per person a day,
31 but we need to have a clear understanding of that. Per
32 person per day, that's a lot. If you have three or
33 four people within the boat, four of you, that's eight
34 caribou. And we all know not everybody fills their
35 boat up to take home. They take what is needed to
36 bring home so they can put what they take away for the
37 winter. And if they need to go back to get a couple
38 more, then they have that opportunity to continue to do
39 that. But it's clear to all of us where we are today
40 and why we are there today, remembering the decline of
41 caribou.

42
43 Now that the caribou is in decline,
44 other interest groups are now targeting moose. That
45 will also become critical at some point. My family
46 live off moose meat. If we take one caribou one year,
47 that's a lot for my family, because we depend on the
48 caribou [sic]. Usually on my hunt, either my first of
49 second day, I'll take a moose. Last fall it took me a

50

1 little over one week to find a moose. And that's how
2 critical it's already getting.

3
4 These are the critical resources, and
5 that resource intake for our residents of this region
6 is critically important. We know we're going to
7 continue to fight for what we believe in, and how we
8 take the approach.

9
10 But it's critically important for all
11 of us to understand exactly what we're trying to do.
12 Listen to the Chairman of what he's trying to take you
13 through. Understand it. If you need clarity, get
14 clarity. You have Staff here that knows the system,
15 that runs the regulations. Get clarity from them as
16 well. That's their job. Based on that information,
17 based on the needs of this region, then you can move
18 forward to say, yes, this is what we want, this is what
19 the people want. Then you take that and support that
20 and bring it to those that makes the decision on taking
21 of those resources.

22
23 And I thank you for taking time. I'm
24 sorry, I took more than what I really need. Thank you.

25
26 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Walter. I
27 think Calvin has something to say to you.

28
29 MR. MOTO: I'm glad you brought that
30 up, because I have a fear if we keep hassling about how
31 much we could get and how much we can't get, we might
32 find ourself having to rely on store-bought meat. This
33 is what I'm afraid of. That's why I always speak up
34 when I try to say, we've got to think of everybody
35 else, not just ourselves. Because if the caribou go,
36 where are we going to get the meat? The store. How
37 expensive the meat in the store is, and this is
38 something -- that's why I'm always -- sometimes ask
39 questions, like do we have -- is this included in this
40 area or is this included in that area. It's not that I
41 don't know, I just wanted to find out for sure what
42 everybody's consensus is. We have to all agree on what
43 we want to do. We can't just squabble about it and
44 forget about it. We have to do all our say here.
45 Let's work together to advance each other.

46
47 Thank you.

48
49 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you very much,

50

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1 Calvin.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah. Thank you,
4 Walter. Thank you so much, and I still have more to
5 say, but go ahead, Enoch.

6

7 MR. MITCHELL: I wish we're on item C,
8 approve annual report. The next item up is Special
9 Action WSA17-01. I'd like to call a point of order.
10 It seems like we're going to item B, going backwards on
11 the agenda now, going back to call for Federal
12 proposals.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you.

17

18 MR. STEVENSON: Mr. Chairman.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah. And I'd like
21 to also thank Walter for his words. We need something
22 like this to spank us on the right place. And his
23 words are well taken. And I'll take it right now.
24 Your words are well taken, and I appreciate it.

25

26 Go ahead, Zach. Hannah, you're next.

27

28 MR. STEVENSON: Just for point of
29 order, I believe that we had not made a call on the
30 matter addressing the change in caribou harvest limits
31 on Federal lands. And again the item under
32 consideration was the proposal to change the harvest
33 limit of caribou on Federal lands from five caribou to
34 three caribou per day per person by Federally-qualified
35 subsistence users in Unit 23.

36

37 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Louie.
40 It's okay.

41

42 And I think it's my fault, and I'll
43 take the blame on this. When we said per day, what we
44 are really doing is we're trying to not -- to put it on
45 record for the Western world to understand that we took
46 a reduction. And the Western world, that way they
47 won't fight us. We take a reduction, but we did not
48 say we could take per day, they might understand it and
49 say, hey, they take a reduction from -- was from 15 a
50

1 day, we took a reduction to five a day. But we did not
2 say it publically that we could take per day and we
3 could another take other 10 next day. This is for the
4 Western world to understand so they won't fight us on
5 Federal lands. And we were trying to do that, and,
6 Charlie, I hope you understand it better. But it's my
7 fault, I should explained it a little bit better. But
8 for our report and people to understand.

9

10 Go ahead, Hannah.

11

12 MS. LOON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

13

14 Over time Buck Kramer have always
15 mentioned this is a situation on the continuous
16 declining of the caribou, that it will become like the
17 sheep where the sheep were over-hunted before, and it
18 will become declined, and it will be no hunting of
19 sheep. And we want to ensure that we have caribou for
20 our grandchildren when we're gone, after us.

21

22 Thank you.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Let's get to
25 what we have. We had a proposal out, and there was a
26 second to take a reduction from five a day to three a
27 day, right?

28

29 Go ahead, Louie.

30

31 MR. COMMACK: Again, for clarification,
32 we're talking about Federal lands; we're not talking
33 reduction on the river.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead.

36

37 MS. MAAS: Yeah. Through the Chair.
38 Lisa Maas for the record.

39

40 And when we say Federal lands in
41 regulation, that includes waters. So, yes, it's
42 Federal lands and waters.

43

44 MR. COMMACK: Again tell me, on the
45 Kobuk River, are we taking a reduction on the Kobuk
46 River?

47

48 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Just on the Federal
49 land. The land at the Kobuk River is just above Kiana,

50

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1 and it's.....

2

3 MR. COMMACK: Above Kiana.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yes. And there's a
6 -- correct me, someone from the Board, and there's
7 another one above it where really outsiders can come,
8 because it's the Park Service -- correct me, someone,
9 on the land. Let him understand, please.

10

11 MS. SWEENEY: This is Brittany Sweeney.

12

13 And just to answer your question, Mr.
14 Commack, if you are looking at the Kobuk River, the
15 Federal waters that would be affected by this
16 regulation are between Kiana and Ambler, the purple on
17 your map within Kobuk Valley Park. That would be
18 included in your proposal.

19

20 MR. COMMACK: From above Kiana all the
21 way to below Ambler?

22

23 MS. SWEENEY: Yeah, just within the
24 purple area within Kobuk Valley Park. It's not
25 everywhere from Kiana to Ambler, it's just that within
26 Kobuk Valley Park. And then on this map it looks like
27 outside of the park, most of the Kobuk River flows
28 through NANA lands or other lands that would not be
29 included in this regulation.

30

31 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Did you get it,
32 Louie?

33

34 MR. COMMACK: Yeah, I get it. My
35 concern was that Shungnak and Kobuk would have to hunt
36 below Ambler every fall to get their harvest. That's
37 my concern. And it's very costly.

38

39 MS. SWEENEY: So just for further
40 clarification, Shungnak and Kobuk and Ambler could hunt
41 on the Kobuk River under the State regulations, and
42 they could harvest five per day. So they would be
43 eligible to still hunt in those areas. We're just
44 clarifying what sections would be changed by your
45 proposal, this Board's proposal to go down to three.
46 There's still hunting allowed throughout the Kobuk
47 River.

48

49 MR. COMMACK: Okay. That's what I'm

50

1 trying to understand. I don't -- well, I represent the
2 Upper Kobuk, so I just want to understand that and be
3 precise on the clarity of this.

4
5 Thank you.

6
7 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Sure. Thanks
8 for the clarification.

9
10 So we're going to go back to our -- we
11 had a proposal earlier to take a reduction from -- and
12 we need to vote. And to your understanding that we
13 always to keep it for the Western world to understand
14 we're taking a reduction, but we're trying not to put
15 it on paper, because if they translate, they could
16 understand the next day we could get more.

17
18 So back to the proposal, I need a vote
19 to pass this proposal. I need a question first.

20
21 MR. BALLOT: Question.

22
23 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: The question's been
24 called for. All in favor signify by saying aye.

25
26 IN UNISON: Aye,

27
28 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: It passes. Any nays
29 on it.

30
31 (No opposing votes)

32
33 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: If not, it all passes
34 unanimously.

35
36 So we'll get back to the agenda.

37
38 MR. COMMACK: Mr. Chairman. There is
39 something I wanted to bring up, I don't know when is
40 the appropriate time, on that proposal that was made
41 many, many years ago.

42
43 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, give it a
44 shot and we'll tell you if it's on the right.....

45
46 MR. COMMACK: Oh, okay. Thank you very
47 much. And thank you for the opportunity.

48
49 In 2001, 2002 the Board of Game

50

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1 considered a proposal to do a 25-mile corridor from
2 Amber (ph) Mission on the Kobuk all the way to Walker
3 Lake. This was because of many years of hunting
4 conflict within Fairbanks area. I know it was denied.
5 I bring this up again.

6
7 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you for the
8 refresher.

9
10 MR. COMMACK: For consideration.

11
12 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Louie, for
13 the refresher. Thanks.

14
15 Let's get back to the agenda. I'm not
16 even going to ask for break due to our time is
17 happening here. So we'll keep on going. Go ahead,
18 Zach.

19
20 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
21 And viewing the amended -- updated, I should say,
22 agenda, redlined agenda, we are now on item 11, new
23 business, item D, Wildlife Special Action 17-02, to be
24 addressed by Dr. Joshua Ream.

25
26 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go head, Doc. Are
27 you along or are you on the radio.

28
29 MR. STEVENSON: He may have stepped out
30 for just a moment. While we're getting Dr. Ream, just
31 for everyone's clarification, Wildlife Special Action
32 17 -- pardon me, Wildlife Special Action 17-02
33 addresses the proposal that was brought forward by the
34 Council at the October 5-6, 2016 meeting in Selawik
35 regarding the proposal to restrict the hunting of moose
36 on Federal public lands in Unit 23, and during a 12-
37 month, one-year, period. Restrict the use of --
38 restrict moose hunting to non-Federally-qualified users
39 in Unit 23.

40
41 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

42
43 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you.
44 Before you get -- I'm going to tell the Board, if you
45 want to take a nature break, go ahead and do that. I'm
46 not going to ask for a break. We'll keep on going to
47 time restraints.

48
49 Go ahead, give your report.

50

1 DR. REAM: Good morning, Mr. Chair.
2 Members of the Council. My name is Joshua Ream. My
3 Tlingit name is (in Tlingit). I'm originally from
4 Pennsylvania, and my family still lives there, although
5 I've been in Alaska for more than 10 years now. I am a
6 cultural anthropologist with the Office of Subsistence
7 Management, and within the past year I've been assigned
8 to both your region and to the North Slope.

9
10 Today I'll be presenting Wildlife
11 Special Action Request 17-02 for you. And I'd also
12 like to thank Brandon Saito for the additional
13 information that he brought forth to you yesterday
14 regarding the moose populations in the area.

15
16 The biological analysis for this
17 request is still going through internal review within
18 the Office of Subsistence Management, and no
19 preliminary conclusion is currently available. Only
20 background and biological harvest information will be
21 presented at this time. Since this is an action item,
22 we are looking for the Council to make a recommendation
23 on this request.

24
25 Special Action 17-02 was submitted by
26 the Northwest Arctic Regional Subsistence Advisory
27 Council, and requests a moose hunting closure on
28 Federal public lands in Unit 23 to non-Federally-
29 qualified subsistence users for the 2017/2018
30 regulatory year due to a decline in the moose
31 population within Unit 23. Your Council has requested
32 this closure to insure the continued viability of the
33 region's moose population, and to ensure the continued
34 subsistence use of this important wildlife resource to
35 Federally qualified subsistence users.

36
37 The Council stated that conservation
38 measures are needed now to sustain moose as an
39 important subsistence resource for Federally-qualified
40 subsistence user in the region. Reference was made to
41 a report by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game
42 documenting a moose population decline in the area.
43 The proponent claims that continued harvest of moose in
44 Unit 23 by non-Federally-qualified users on Federal
45 public lands will lead to further declines in the
46 population before proposals can be submitted to the
47 Federal Subsistence Board. The proponent also states
48 that the proposed closure will help to minimize user
49 conflicts in the unit.

50

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1 The regulatory history for this
2 proposal. In 2003 the Alaska Board of Game approved
3 four registration hunts in the unit with permits RM-880
4 only available in person at licensed vendors in Unit 23
5 villages from June 1st through July 15th. This early
6 availability of permits occurs before most of the
7 seasons open. If a non-local hunter wants to hunt in
8 one of the registration permit hunts, the individual
9 has to make a special trip to one of the Unit 23
10 villages to receive a permit, and then return later
11 when the season opens.

12
13 There have been modifications to
14 Federal moose regulations in Unit 23 since the mid
15 2000s. In 2006 Proposal WP06-54 was submitted by the
16 Northwest Arctic Regional Advisory Council, and
17 requested the harvest of moose calves be prohibited,
18 and that the two-week seasonal closure in the Noatak
19 River drainage be removed. The Board adopted WP06-54
20 as a consensus agenda item.

21
22 In 2010 the Board adopted WP10-85, with
23 modification. And this adjusted the time period during
24 which aircraft were restricted in the Noatak Controlled
25 Use Area to August 15th through September 30th. This
26 aligned with recent actions taken by the Alaska Board
27 of Game.

28
29 In January of this year, amended
30 Proposal 36 was passed by the Alaska Board of Game to
31 change the antler less moose season in Unit 23 to one
32 antlered bull due to conservation concerns related to a
33 decline in the moose population. Proposal 44, which
34 shifted the area of the Noatak Controlled Use Area to
35 extend from the Aggie River to the Nimiuktuk River, was
36 also passed at the January 2017 Alaska Board of Game
37 meeting.

38
39 The biological background. Moose
40 expanded into Unit 23 from the east relatively recently
41 with the first moose appearing in the unit during the
42 1920s. The Unit 23 moose population grew the late
43 1980s. This rise in population was followed by severe
44 winters and extensive flooding that occurred between
45 1988 and 1991, and this reduced the population and the
46 overall moose density.

47
48 According to the most recent population
49 census survey data, the current estimated moose
50

1 population for Unit 23 was approximately 7500 moose.
2 This is below the overall population goal of 8100 to
3 10,000 moose for Unit 23. Data was collected between
4 2010 and 2016.

5
6 Between 2000 and 2011, spring moose
7 census surveys showed adult moose densities in Unit 23
8 ranging from .03 to .59 moose per square mile. The
9 most recent data shows adult moose densities in Unit 23
10 ranging from .03 to .44 moose per square mile.

11
12 State management goals for moose in
13 Unit 23 include maintaining a minimum November bull/cow
14 ratio of 40 to 100. The most recent composition
15 surveys were conducted in the Lower Noatak in 2013, the
16 Seward Peninsula in 2014, Selawik in 2015, and the
17 Lower Kobuk in 2016. And ratios ranged from 34 to 53
18 bulls per 100 cows.

19
20 From 2001 through 2016, spring
21 adult/calf ratios throughout the unit ranged from 7 to
22 15 calves per 100 adults.

23
24 The harvest data. The current
25 harvestable surplus is estimated at 450 moose for Unit
26 23. Annual reported harvest in Unit 23 from 2005
27 through 2015 averaged 153 moose. Local residents,
28 defined as those residing within Unit 23, accounted for
29 approximately 50 percent of the total reported harvest
30 on average from 2005 through 2015, and 51 percent --
31 51.5 percent in 2015 alone. In 2015 165 moose, 144
32 male and 21 female, were reported harvested with 35.1
33 percent hunter success throughout the unit.

34
35 Community household surveys show that
36 harvest reporting is generally low in Unit 23. In 2011
37 seven moose were reported as harvested by Selawik
38 locals. Comparatively, the community household survey
39 for Selawik drainage showed that approximately 40 moose
40 were harvested by Unit 23 residents that year. Taking
41 this disparity into account, the Alaska Department of
42 Fish and Game estimated that approximately 70 moose are
43 taken from the Selawik drainage annually. This
44 translates to a seven percent harvest, which is high
45 for the area.

46
47 Current events involving this request
48 include the Unit 23 working group having been
49 established in 2008 that meets annually since its
50

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1 creation. The purpose of the working group is to find
2 solutions to hunting conflicts that will preserve the
3 Inupiaq values for the region, and to provide advisory
4 recommendations to regulatory agencies. The working
5 group has worked toward implementing orientation
6 sessions for pilots flying within Unit 23 for the
7 purpose of transporting game to emphasize measures that
8 can be taken by pilots to reduce or avoid user
9 conflicts with local hunters. The group also works
10 with land managers to provide information to guides
11 pertaining to ways to avoid conflict with local
12 hunters, and areas that should be avoided.

13
14 To obtain public comments related to
15 this request, a public meeting was held on January
16 24th, 2017 in Kotzebue. The public comments in support
17 of the request expressed that with caribou declining in
18 the area, more local residents will rely on moose for
19 subsistence. As subsistence food resources decline,
20 the local residents here are concerned that the culture
21 surrounding subsistence lifestyles will die out and
22 that locals will lose the nutrient-rich foods on which
23 they have always relied. There's also concern that
24 this will lead to greater health problems for local
25 residents, and that food security concerns will
26 intensify.

27
28 The special action request is seen by
29 supporters as a necessary step to ensure healthy moose
30 populations in the unit. Supporters of this request do
31 not think that the Alaska Department of Fish and Game
32 has done enough to protect Native and rural
33 communities, and to sustain food security in the area.

34
35 Gratitude was conveyed to non-local
36 hunters though who donate meat to elders in the
37 villages every year, but it was expressed that everyone
38 will need to reduce harvest to conserve this resource.

39
40 It was expressed that ANILCA protects
41 the rights of subsistence users in Unit 23.

42
43 While public comments opposed to this
44 request expressed that there was concern about the
45 thoroughness of data pertaining to moose in Unit 23.
46 It was expressed that Federal lands should be opened to
47 everyone since it is public land, and that closure
48 should only be used if there is a clear biological
49 concern.

50

1 It was mentioned that ADF&G already
2 took actions to limit non-local harvest in the unit.
3 And since there has not been an increase in non-local
4 harvest, then there is no need for additional
5 restrictions on non-local users.

6
7 It was stated that if there is
8 biological concern or a user conflict concern, then
9 resident hunters should be restricted prior to any
10 restrictions on Alaska residents, and that non-local
11 hunters also take bears and wolves which, in turn,
12 benefits the moose population.

13
14 It was conveyed that meat is typically
15 donated to the elders in the villages by non-local
16 users, but with closures in place, this may limit the
17 donated meat that is brought to the villages. It was
18 expressed that this may hurt some of the communities in
19 Unit 23.

20
21 Hunters that are opposed to this
22 request stated that they take part in the Unit 23 moose
23 hunt more for their experience and the landscapes than
24 for the meat.

25
26 There was also concern that if this
27 request is approved, then more hunters will be pushed
28 into Unit 24.

29
30 The individuals who opposed this
31 request expressed concern about the precedent that this
32 request sets for future actions.

33
34 That's the extent of our analysis thus
35 far. And myself and Lisa Maas will be happy to answer
36 any questions that you have.

37
38 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah. Thank you, Dr.
39 Ream. You said if we keep this closed, we're going to
40 push the problem somewhere else. I think when they
41 close it somewhere else, are -- we have a -- we know
42 that our moose declining in the Unit 23. We all know
43 that. What we're trying to do in our understanding,
44 we're trying to keep it closed to preserve and for them
45 to come back faster.

46
47 So I'll tell you right now, what the
48 Board, how they go about it, it's their choice, but
49 I'll tell you one thing. Mother Nature is trying to
50

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1 tell us something, and we're not hearing. Not only
2 moose is declining. Other resources are declining,
3 too, and some others, as fish, is increasing. Mother
4 Nature has its way to try to balance it. But when we
5 try to tell the agencies and the State, they won't
6 listen to us when we take a reduction. Really what I'm
7 trying to do here is balance it. Our caribou is
8 declining, our moose is declining. And nature's
9 telling us, and we're not hearing it.

10
11 Even if you went to school, we live off
12 this land. We see the land. We are the eyes of the
13 north. And we need to preserve what we have.

14
15 I will not care what the hunters say
16 out there. If the moose is declining, I will gladly
17 close it to everybody, even to us, if I have to. This
18 is the interest of our land.

19
20 Go ahead, Enoch. I'll get to you
21 later, Zach.

22
23 MR. MITCHELL: Yes. Thank you for your
24 presentation. That's very interesting. This where
25 we're crowding on State lands when close Federal lands
26 is happening also on the caribou side. I can
27 understand that. You know, if I had a different unit,
28 say Unit 24, Unit 26, if they close their caribou, then
29 they're crowding, will come over to our lands. The
30 same way with other. It's just natural, it just
31 happens. I mean, the caribou is down, we have to close
32 it. There's a shift to another area. It just people
33 that's coming in. So they should understand that.
34 They should only allow what the land could hold, you
35 know. If they put too much people in this one area,
36 it's over-crowding. They don't have a limit on
37 transporters. Maybe that's one of the solutions they
38 should look at, instead of coming to us as creating a
39 conflict.

40
41 The conflict is already created by
42 letting too many, or what the land can hold. So let's
43 only allow what the land could hold, they won't have
44 this problem with over-crowding. It will happen to
45 another, if another RAC closed down their area. They
46 would probably come this way and it would be our over-
47 crowding problem.

48
49 But as we can see it, our moose is
50

1 going down, our caribou is going down. And I would
2 just like to mention that.

3
4 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Enoch.
5 Zach had his hand first, then you, Percy. And if
6 you're commenting, please try to say it once, and two-
7 timers. Thanks.

8
9 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
10 A brief clarification. The information that was shared
11 a moment ago by Dr. Ream was a summary of the public
12 comments that were shared here on January 24, not the
13 position of the Office of Subsistence Management.

14
15 And we are now in terms of process is
16 providing an opportunity now for the Council to share
17 its views on this special action in the same way the
18 public had that opportunity. So this is the
19 opportunity now for the Council to share its views on
20 this special action, and that will go into the record,
21 which will be featured as part of the analysis. Is
22 that accurate, Dr. Ream and Ms. Maas.

23
24 MS. MAAS: The Council -- this is an
25 action item. So after discussion, the Council needs to
26 make a motion on whether they support or oppose or
27 support with modification, whatever, on this special
28 action.

29
30 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Percy.

31
32 MR. BALLOT: Yeah. You got it?

33
34 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: You can take it.
35 Yeah.

36
37 MR. BALLOT: Where is it in our packet.

38
39 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: We don't have it. I
40 mean, there's a lot missing in our packet here. We
41 don't have it in the packet.

42
43 MR. BALLOT: Yeah. I mean, we should
44 be looking at it, too. I mean, I could hear him. I
45 mean, I could hear him real good, but you've got a lot
46 of details in there that there's questions I want to
47 ask. I mean, it should be in our packet if we're going
48 to be considering it.

49
50

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1 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah. Remember at
2 the first of our meeting I said a lot of stuff is
3 missing in our packet. And that's reports like this
4 was prepared already by the agencies, and you guys need
5 to get them to Zach.

6
7 MR. STEVENSON: Yeah, it's in the
8 packet.

9
10 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: This one is not.

11
12 MS. MAAS: This is in the preliminary
13 stages of analysis. So it's not ready. I mean, we
14 don't have the analysis prepared yet.

15
16 MR. BALLOT: If it's not ready, why is
17 it being produced to us?

18
19 MS. MAAS: It's the regulation.

20
21 MS. LOON: Point of order.

22
23 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Hannah.
24 She said, point of order.

25
26 MS. LOON: Mr. Chairman. I was present
27 at a teleconference that was posted on Facebook, that
28 was announced on the radio, and all of us RAC members
29 received notices and notices from our emails that this
30 was happening about WSA17-02. I was present. It was
31 held here, and we all gave our input. And the villages
32 called, and Noatak called, and non-subsistence users
33 called. And we were all present and he summarized what
34 was said accordingly. And that is all. And you did
35 receive your notices.

36
37 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Go ahead,
38 Verne.

39
40 MR. CLEVELAND: I make a motion to
41 support Doctor.....

42
43 MR. STEVENSON: Dr. Ream.

44
45 MR. CLEVELAND: Yeah.

46
47 MR. KRAMER: Second.

48
49 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: There's a motion on
50

1 the floor and second by who?

2

3 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE ON TELECONFERENCE:
4 That's how I feel. That's how I feel, okay. So I'm
5 going to go, unless you have something progressive to
6 say.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, whatever.
9 Okay. Go ahead somebody. I heard a second. I need to
10 -- oh, Kramer seconded.

11

12 MS. LOON: I call for question.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Louie.

15

16 MR. COMMACK: So this is for one year.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead.

19

20 DR. REAM: Yes. Through the Chair,
21 this is Joshua Ream.

22

23 This would be for one regulatory year.
24 And just for clarification on the record, the motion is
25 to support the special action and not me personally.

26

27 Thank you.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I got that. You guys
30 get it?

31

32 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chair. I wasn't
33 trying to speak against it. I just wanted to see it.
34 I hope you understand that. I'm not trying to.....

35

36 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I understand. Yeah,
37 I understand what you're saying.

38

39 MR. BALLOT: Yeah, because I didn't see
40 it, and.....

41

42 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Because there's three
43 letters that are missing to our packet.

44

45 MR. BALLOT:because there was
46 concern about sportshunters, I want to make sure I
47 understood.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Sure. There

50

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1 was a motion, there was a question been called for on
2 this proposal.

3
4 MR. STEVENSON: Mr. Chair, if I may.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Zach.

7
8 MR. STEVENSON: We also -- I would
9 suggest that we explore whether there will be comments
10 taken before we proceed. Are there any comments?

11
12 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Comments, you mean
13 from the floor or the radio land?

14
15 MS. MAAS: From the public, yeah.

16
17 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

18
19 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Is there any
20 comments on this proposal from the audience and the
21 radio land. Now is your time. Yeah, go ahead, Walter.

22
23 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you very much. I
24 think what you heard from the Doctor is critically
25 important. If there's notices that went out for those
26 proposed meetings to address those things that were
27 reported, then they have occurred. And I would support
28 exactly what he's talking about, and that's important
29 time. You need to act on issues, to address those very
30 crucial issues.

31
32 Thank you.

33
34 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Walter.

35
36 Anyone else. Anyone else on the radio
37 that want to speak on this proposal on moose.

38
39 Go ahead, Maya.

40
41 MS. LUKIN: Thank you. Maya Lukin,
42 National Park Service.

43
44 I just want to -- I just need a
45 clarification, that's all. So yesterday Member Kramer
46 proposed bulls August 1 through October 30; and
47 November 1 through December 31, any moose, bull or cow;
48 and then December 31 through March 31 antler less cows
49 would be eliminated. And it was proposed by Mike,

50

1 seconded by Enoch. So I'm just wondering what the --
2 if this is different than that proposal.

3
4 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, you could
5 answer, Dr. Ream.

6
7 DR. REAM: For the record, this is
8 Joshua Ream.

9
10 That was a regulatory proposal that was
11 submitted and wouldn't take place until the year 2018.
12 This is a special action that would be for just 12
13 months beginning in July of 2017.

14
15 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Did you
16 get it, Maya.

17
18 MS. LUKIN: I think I got it. So this
19 proposal you're discussing now is for 2017 to 2018.

20
21 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, that's what the
22 doctor said.

23
24 MS. LUKIN: And then this proposal that
25 Mike proposed is for a regulatory change open to
26 everyone, or.....

27
28 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Refresh us, Mike.
29 For the Federal subsistence users.

30
31 MR. KRAMER: Yeah, Federal subsistence
32 users.

33
34 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Susan.

35
36 MS. GEORGETTE: This is Susan
37 Georgette.

38
39 My understanding is that what Josh was
40 talking about is a closure of moose hunting on Federal
41 lands to non-Federally-qualified users. So this one
42 would not allow anyone who doesn't live in GMU 23 to
43 hunt moose on Federal lands. And what Mike was talking
44 about yesterday is for Federal subsistence users on
45 Federal lands.

46
47 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. You live
48 longenough, you understand our layman terms. Thank you.

49
50

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1 Okay. We need to vote on this now.

2

3 MR. STEVENSON: Are there any comments,
4 any further comments?

5

6 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Is there any more
7 comments from the radio land.

8

9 (No comments)

10

11 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: If not, I think the
12 Board need to vote on this. All in favor signify by
13 saying aye.

14

15 IN UNISON: Aye.

16

17 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Opposed same sign.

18

19 (No opposing votes)

20

21 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: None heard, recorded.
22 Okay. Thank you.

23

24 See, like I stated, if you want to take
25 a nature break, go ahead and take it. We'll try to
26 keep on going due to the time restraint.

27

28 And we're on 11.e., Fish and Wildlife
29 Service draft Alaska Native relations policy. Hardin.
30 Supplemental. Do we have copy -- they were asking, do
31 you have copy of your report.

32

33 MS. HARDIN: Mr. Chair. This is
34 Jennifer Hardin.

35

36 You should all have a copy. I'm going
37 to go over the handouts that you should have in front
38 of you, if you're ready for me to start.

39

40 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Just turn it over,
41 and you could see while we're looking.

42

43 MS. HARDIN: There are two. One looks
44 like this. It's the.....

45

46 MR. STEVENSON: Everyone's been
47 provided with a copy.

48

49 MS. HARDIN:U.S. Fish and

50

1 Wildlife Service Native Relations Policy. And anybody
2 in the public who wants them, they're on the table
3 outside.

4
5 Mr. Moto, do you have them. It's a
6 supplemental, so it's not in your book. Zach, could
7 you please check with Calvin to make sure he's.....

8
9 MR. STEVENSON: I can make some more,
10 absolutely.

11
12 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, I need a copy,
13 too. Yeah. Go ahead, start on your report.

14
15 MS. HARDIN: The second item you should
16 have in front of you looks like this. It says on the
17 front, draft Alaska Native Relations Policy, and it has
18 people's names and email addresses and phone numbers.

19
20 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead.

21
22 MS. HARDIN: Okay. It's important that
23 you have both, because they kind of work together.

24
25 So for the record, my name is Jennifer
26 Hardin, and I'm the anthropology division chief at the
27 Office of Subsistence Management.

28
29 I also had the opportunity and
30 privilege to work on a team of folks that have drafted
31 an Alaska Native Relations Policy for the U.S. Fish and
32 Wildlife Service, and that's what I'm going to talk to
33 you about today.

34
35 The first document that I showed you,
36 which says on the front, Native American Policy, is
37 specific to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and it
38 was signed in January of 2016. It applies across the
39 nation and provides a framework that outlines the U.S.
40 Fish and Wildlife Service's relationship with
41 Federally-recognized tribes. So this document has
42 already been completed.

43
44 The second document, which is the
45 document that I really want to talk to you about today,
46 is a draft of the companion policy for Alaska. So this
47 document is specific to Alaska and the U.S. Fish and
48 Wildlife Service relationship with Federally recognized
49 tribes, Alaska Native organizations, and ANCSA Native

50

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1 Corporations. So the two documents were meant to be
2 used side by side, and that's why we wanted you to have
3 both today.

4
5 There are two reasons that we needed to
6 develop an Alaska-specific policy as a companion to the
7 national Native American policy.

8
9 One reason is because of subsistence.
10 And as you know, subsistence is a provision in the
11 Alaska National Interests Lands Conservation Act, in
12 the Marine Mammal Protection Act, and in the Migratory
13 Bird Treaty Act, and in the Endangered Species Act. So
14 three of the acts are specific to Alaska Native
15 peoples, and therefore the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
16 Service needed to describe responsibilities of our
17 employees under those specific acts.

18
19 The second reason is because we're
20 directed by law to work with Native entities in
21 addition to working with tribal governments. So there
22 became a need to describe our relationship with Alaska
23 Native organizations and to ANCSA corporations. This
24 draft policy attempts to do that.

25
26 The draft Alaska Native Relations
27 Policy gives guidance to Fish and Wildlife Service
28 employees for their responsibilities and opportunities
29 for relationships to tribes, Alaska Native
30 organizations, and again ANCSA corporation.

31
32 The sections in the draft policy that
33 you have in front of you directly correspond to the
34 National Native American Policy. And there's a number
35 of sections, such as and it covers such things as
36 sovereignty and government-to-government relationships,
37 communication and relationships, resource management,
38 culture and religion, law enforcement, capacity
39 building, assistance in funding, and scope and
40 limitations, and implementation and monitoring.

41
42 So this draft Native Relation -- Alaska
43 Native relations policy was developed over the last
44 year with a team of culturally and geographically
45 balanced tribal and Alaska Native corporation
46 representatives.

47
48 The draft policy will be published in
49 the Federal Register as soon as we're able to do so,
50

1 and open for public review. In anticipation of that
2 public comment periods, we're providing it to Regional
3 Advisory Councils across the State for your information
4 and with the hopes that you'll share this policy with
5 your communities and encourage folks to give us
6 feedback and provide comments on the draft policy. As
7 we mentioned several times over the last couple days,
8 we're still not certain when we'll be able to publish
9 anything in the Federal Register, so the public comment
10 period is not set. Right now what we're asking you to
11 do, to help in your planning, is if you could take this
12 information back to your communities, and ask folks to
13 submit any kinds of comments or concerns they might
14 have to one of the two individuals that's listed on the
15 first page of the draft policy by April 26th. That
16 date is subject to change depending on when we're
17 actually able to publish in the Federal Register.

18
19 So comments may be submitted to Joanne
20 Bryant or to Crystal Leonetti. And you can also
21 provide any kind of verbal feedback you'd like to
22 provide today, and we'll take your comments back to
23 Crystal and Joanne.

24
25 I want to just really emphasize that
26 we're not asking for a Council motion, we're not asking
27 -- this is not an action item. This is for your
28 information only. And we're asking for your help to
29 try to spread this information widely within the
30 communities so that we can get again as much feedback
31 from subsistence users, subsistence hunters and fishers
32 throughout the state on this draft policy.

33
34 Thank you for your time. That's the
35 extent of my presentation. I can answer any questions
36 you might have, and also provide you additional
37 information on how to submit those comments at the end
38 of the meeting if you'd like.

39
40 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Go ahead,
41 Zach. Anyone else have a question after Zach.

42
43 MR. STEVENSON: Through the Chair.

44
45 Ms. Hardin, just for clarification, I'm
46 wondering if you might be able to speak briefly to how
47 this policy will be used, by whom, and for what
48 purpose, and who helped to develop it.

49
50

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1 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thanks. Go ahead,
4 answer.

5

6 MS. HARDIN: Through the Chair. As I
7 mentioned in my presentation, it was developed over the
8 past year or so with agency representatives, and a
9 geographically and culturally balanced group of
10 representatives from Federally-recognized tribes,
11 Alaska Native organizations, and ANCSA corporations.
12 The policy will be utilized by U.S. Fish and Wildlife
13 Service employees to help educate them about their
14 responsibilities under the law, and also to encourage
15 and facilitate opportunities for relationship building,
16 collaboration, and working together as closely as
17 possible.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead.
20 Thanks. And I'm going to ask Zach only one time,
21 please turn your phone off. It's been going off.

22

23 Go ahead, Louie.

24

25 MR. COMMACK: (Mic not on)

26

27 MS. HARDIN: That is the national
28 policy which is already finalized. It's a companion
29 document with the draft policy that's specific to
30 Alaska, and that's this one. So this has not yet been
31 finalized, and we want your input. You and folks in
32 your community.

33

34 MR. COMMACK: (Mic not on)

35

36 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Turn your mic on,
37 please.

38

39 MR. COMMACK: When do we discuss this?
40 This one. And you say it's been finalized, this one?

41

42 MS. HARDIN: Yeah. So that document
43 was developed over the course of I believe a year and a
44 half to two years with a national group of tribal
45 representatives and agency folks. It was finalized in
46 January of 2016. And so the tribal consultation on
47 that took place over a number of months.

48

49 MR. COMMACK: Okay. Could I ask a

50

1 question on tribal consultation. I know it's an
2 executive order, and it seems like every time the
3 Federal government want to consult with the tribes,
4 they come after a decision has been made already on the
5 Federal level. I don't agree with that. This
6 executive order by President Clinton was to help the
7 tribe be part of the decision-making process, not come
8 after the decision was made already. So I see that
9 happening for many years.

10

11

CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead.

12

13

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The intent of both these policies is to
enhance that relationship, and to make sure moving
forward that everyone, every employee of the U.S. Fish
and Wildlife Service is aware of their responsibilities
for tribal consultation and beyond tribal consultation,
for collaboration and working together.

CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Anyone
else have a question.

MR. MOTO: I notice on this Federal
Subsistence Board are mostly of the directors of the
various fish and game areas, and only two members from
the public. How much background would they have on how
we in the rural area live, you know.

And also in this one, I was kind of
disturbed on how much input did you get from the tribal
in the villages, or just these either that or just
say, okay, this is what we're going to do, this is what
we're going to write, and then they're going to have to
come live by it without even giving us a chance to
voice our opinion. It's always like it seem like the

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1 Federal government is trying to hook us in same as the
2 tribes in the Lower 48 where we'll be relying -- next
3 thing we know, we might have agencies and agent
4 directors in our area telling us this is where you have
5 to get your food, this is where you have to -- you
6 know. This is something that I really (mic off). If
7 we didn't have any input in this, I could see where
8 maybe -- I don't know. I just wanted to say that.

9
10 Thank you.

11
12 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Maybe you could
13 stress that, for the Northwest Alaska, where was the
14 draft sent to, to ease him off a little bit. And I
15 think that's the thing, some never see it. I've seen
16 it.

17
18 MS. HARDIN: Thank you. Through the
19 Chair.

20
21 Before we got to a draft, there were
22 invitations sent out to every Federally-recognized
23 tribe and ANCSA corporations and Alaska Native
24 organizations, asking those agencies and tribes to
25 nominate folks to participate on the team that
26 developed the draft policy. So that before we
27 proceeded to put anything together, we developed a team
28 of people that included tribal members and corporation
29 members, and ANOs.

30
31 The draft has been sent out to all of
32 those organizations as well, all Federally-recognized
33 tribes, the ANCSA corporations, and ANOs, Alaska Native
34 organizations. Tribal consultation has been ongoing
35 throughout the process. We've taken every opportunity
36 we have been able to grab onto to present this at
37 conferences, at tribal meetings, at things like AFN.
38 So this conversation has been ongoing for many months.
39 And we do not want to move forward without hearing from
40 you all and from the communities, which is why we're
41 asking you to please take this information back to the
42 communities and give us your feedback.

43
44 MR. MOTO: Another reason I brought
45 that up is I remember in the 40s and the 50s where we
46 didn't have all of the stuff that they have in the
47 store. We subsisted on primarily whatever we got from
48 the ocean and the tundra, or we had what we call
49 nickaback (ph), all Native foods three times a day.

1 And we never know what cereal, whatever, what all these
2 different types of canned foods were until I went to
3 high school when I was 16. I said, what are these, you
4 know. But I really choose, always reliant subsistence
5 hunting, subsistence fishing, subsistence food
6 gathering. And the way we used to hunt and gather food
7 was kind of -- the whole families pitch in. I had to
8 learn how to hunt the ptarmigan and the muskrats and
9 squirrels and rabbit with slings and slingshots,
10 because that was our job as a young boy.

11
12 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Calvin, thank you. I
13 would like to.....

14
15 MR. MOTO: I just thought I'd bring
16 that up, because I was wondering.

17
18 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah. Calvin, I was
19 giving -- you said that.....

20
21 MR. MOTO: Yeah. I think it's
22 important to.....

23
24 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT:we should take
25 it back to the villages.

26
27 MR. MOTO:to bring that up in
28 regards with.....

29
30 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: And you need.....

31
32 MR. MOTO:what people say. I
33 think it's important.

34
35 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, I know what
36 you're saying, but you.....

37
38 MR. MOTO: I don't want to see us go
39 back to living like that.

40
41 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. I understand
42 what you're saying, but you said we need to take it
43 back to the villages, and you need to stress the dates.
44 I did not hear it. By when? Go ahead.

45
46 And after she answers it, Percy, you
47 have.....

48
49 MR. BALLOT: And she's also asking for
50

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1 comments from us, too, right.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah.

4

5 MR. BALLOT: And right now if I
6 remember correctly that we can make a comment.

7

8 I was reviewing this the last couple
9 days, and, you know, I was looking at the description
10 for the draft relations policy in regards to Alaska
11 Native corporations, ANCSA, and all that, and the
12 history. I just -- I don't know where we have it in
13 here, but about tribes and tribes acknowledging that
14 they had historical use, they have, you know, by
15 stories, by the culture, by how they live. And I kind
16 of wanted to have that inserted in there if it's not in
17 there, or if I missed it.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead.
20 Louie, you're next.

21

22 MS. HARDIN: Thank you very much for
23 your comments, and I'll make sure to take that back.
24 We did work hard to make sure that that was
25 incorporated into this policy.

26

27 And to speak to Mr. Moto also, what we
28 really want to achieve with this Alaska-specific policy
29 is that all employees of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
30 Service have a clear understanding of the importance of
31 subsistence and the subsistence way of life within
32 Alaska.

33

34 MR. BALLOT: Yeah, and I really thank
35 whoever put this together, because I know there was a
36 series of meetings being published. I just wanted to
37 make sure that in the end there's no competition from
38 tribes and corporation and non-profits in regards to
39 programs, or funding, or different, that we might -- we
40 don't have sometimes the manpower or even the knowledge
41 or ways to get some of the funding that might be useful
42 that's in there, or there. I know they're not always
43 trying to take away from use, but, you know, if we
44 don't know it, and we don't have the manpower and the
45 ways and the funding to get there and learn about that,
46 and try for it, then we'll lose.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you,
49 Percy. Go ahead, Louie.

50

1 MR. COMMACK: To my understanding,
2 we'll be talking about this again in the later date.

3
4 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead.

5
6 MS. HARDIN: Through the Chair. This
7 is an information item for you only. It doesn't
8 require Board action or Council action. This is the
9 draft policy.

10
11 MR. COMMACK: Today?

12
13 MS. HARDIN: No, you -- we're asking
14 for you all to take time -- I know you've only just
15 seen it, to peruse it, take it back to the communities,
16 maybe talk with the communities, and have comments back
17 by April 26th.

18
19 MR. COMMACK: April 26, okay.

20
21 MS. HARDIN: April 26, it's on the
22 first page of your document. And that deadline might
23 move to a later date if we -- depending on when we
24 actually publish in the Federal Register. But we
25 wanted to give you a date to shoot for, since we're not
26 certain when that will be. So April 26th. And if you
27 need additional information -- additional time, you can
28 also contact Crystal. Her contact information is on
29 the first page, and speak with her about any timing
30 questions you might have.

31
32 MR. COMMACK: Okay. I just want to
33 comment. I sit on the Maniilaq board of directors, and
34 we have a tribal division. Maniilaq is well aware of
35 that, and we discuss stuff like this. So this will
36 have to come before our tribal division. Also out to
37 the other villages.

38
39 I briefly looked over this, and there's
40 a lot of technical questions I will be asking, you
41 know. A lot of things I see wrong here.

42
43 Thank you.

44
45 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead, your
46 response.

47
48 MS. HARDIN: Thank you. Yes, and
49 please feel free to contact Crystal or Joanne or myself
50

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1 if you have any -- if you'd like us to answer any
2 questions moving forward. I know that Maniilaq has
3 also submitted written comments related to earlier
4 drafts, so we are thankful for that input, and look
5 forward to more.

6
7 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Go ahead,
8 Zach.

9
10 MR. STEVENSON: Through the Chair.

11
12 Responding to Mr. Commack's point a
13 moment ago, it's my understanding that in addition to
14 the routine and legally mandated tribal consultation,
15 tribes can also request at any time consultation with
16 the agency. In other words, if there's an issue that's
17 not being addressed or that is of interest to the
18 tribe, they can call us and request that from the
19 Office of Subsistence Management, and we will respond.
20 It's been my observation that that type of consultation
21 works best when it's a reciprocal relationship. When
22 people communicate with us and we communicate back with
23 the communities in an attitude of respect and
24 inclusion.

25
26 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

27
28 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Go ahead,
29 Louie.

30
31 MR. COMMACK: One case in point is the
32 co-management of Federal lands within the village.
33 We've been addressing this issue for many years in
34 Upper Kobuk. We have Park Service nine miles out of
35 our village. We have State land across us. And then
36 we have more State land around us. So the co-
37 management issue got to be fast-forwarded. We want to
38 have more control over our hunting and fishing and
39 whatever we do on Federal lands and State lands.

40
41 Thank you.

42
43 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Go ahead,
44 Hannah.

45
46 MS. LOON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

47
48 I understand this one, this policy on
49 Native relations policy is to improve the

50

1 communications between the village and OSM?

2

3

CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead.

4

5 MS. LOON: Excuse me. But if it is to
6 be -- if it is to improve our communication in
7 reference to our way of life, for instance, subsistence
8 way of life, it would be very beneficial to us that
9 don't understand this one and have community meetings,
10 audio conferences, and putting articles on the Arctic
11 Sounder, and even to all the newsletters, including
12 NANA, and make us aware, because this is a new thing.
13 If we understand, and when we understand both in
14 Inupiaq and in English, it will improve our community
15 communications and relationship with other governments.
16 It would be very beneficial to us, because some of us
17 can understand English very well, and some of us don't.
18 And it's our elders and those that never went to school
19 in our communities that they are participating and
20 sometimes they love to attend these meetings.

21

22

Thank you very much.

23

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CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. And I
think to translate Hannah's saying a little bit, I
think it need to go out to the villages in like Upper
Kobuk or in town to understand it in layman terms.

Yeah, go ahead, Percy.

MR. BALLOT: Yeah. Mr. Chairman. For
our information, I chair the tribal committee in
Maniilaq, and I will -- we're having a meeting on March
23 or 22, 23, 24, one of those days, and if you've got
somebody we could call and talk to, I'll get this
information out to the board, and have them send it to
the villages. And if we could call somebody for a
little get to know, whatever, I would appreciate it.

CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, Percy. I
think what you need to do is tell her when is the next
Maniilaq board meeting and she probably could be there
with copies and willing to send it out to the villages.

MR. BALLOT: March 22, 23, 24, 25.

CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. You've got
those Maniilaq dates.

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1 MR. BALLOT: It's probably Monday or
2 Tuesday probably. I don't have the exact date yet, but
3 that's probably Monday or Tuesday will be the tribal
4 committee's meeting.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Louie and
7 Percy. A reminder to go attend the meeting and able
8 to, you know, hand out papers. That way they could
9 take it back to the villages, because the more -- I
10 read ahead of time, there was a lot of -- there was two
11 different dictionaries in front of me. And the other
12 one is the Native when I read, and I read it in both
13 languages. I know what they're saying. There is a lot
14 of technical words in there.

15
16 MS. HARDIN: May I just clarify? Thank
17 you, Mr. Percy. I will let Crystal Leonetti know about
18 this meeting, and we'll be in touch about setting
19 something up.

20
21 And also I just want to clarify that
22 this policy is for -- it's not just for OSM. It's for
23 all U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service employees, and so
24 once the policy is finalized, then we'll initiate a
25 process to make sure that all of the employees are --
26 don't just read the policy, but know how to implement
27 it, and to try to enhance relationships and
28 communications.

29
30 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you. Go
31 ahead.

32
33 MS. SWEENEY: This is Brittany Sweeny
34 with Fish and Wildlife Service in Kotzebue.

35
36 And I just wanted to mention that
37 Crystal Leonetti, who is one of the contact people for
38 this draft policy is planning a trip to Kotzebue next
39 week for part of our regional Migratory Bird Council
40 meeting. So if there are people who would like to meet
41 with Crystal or have questions for Crystal, she said
42 that she's happy to talk to anybody about this draft
43 policy while she's here. And we potentially are trying
44 to get on the radio while she's here as well. But I
45 just wanted to mention that so if you have questions
46 for Crystal or you want some of her time, she'll be
47 here next week, and please let me know.

48
49 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Thank
50

1 you. Anyone else have questions.

2

3 MS. OLIFERED: Comments?

4

5 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead, radio
6 land.

7

8 MS. OLIFERED: I'm Molly Olifered (ph),
9 and I'm (interference on teleconference) from Canada.
10 I was informed of this call in, and told I could call
11 in. I hope it's okay for me to give a brief comment.

12

13 I was very interested in this leading-
14 in (ph) topic, because I'm Inuit in the Arctic in
15 Canada, in a small remote (interference on
16 teleconference) community that (interference) and we're
17 very.....

18

19 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Hello? Did we lose
20 you?

21

22 MS. HARDIN: I think we lost her.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: So you could reset it
25 up and you'll get her back on. We'll leave it be.

26

27 MS. HILE: Yeah.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, it was hard to
30 understand anyhow. So thank you.

31

32 Anyone else here from the Council so we
33 could move on.

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Let's move on.
38 Okay. I hear you. Okay.

39

40 Now we're into 11.f. SRC appointments
41 by Atkinson. You on, Ken?

42

43 MR. ATKISSON: That's not my -- that's
44 not Ken Atkisson, that's Hannah Atkinson.

45

46 (Laughter)

47

48 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Sorry about that.
49 Sorry, Hannah. To me, Atkinson is that -- as long as

50

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1 you're not related, you're okay.

2

3 (Laughter)

4

5 MS. ATKINSON: Ken and I are not
6 related, for the record. This is Hannah Atkinson with
7 the National Park Service in Kotzebue. I'm the
8 cultural anthropologist here, and I am the coordinator
9 for the Subsistence Resource Commission.

10

11 And so I wanted to pass these out
12 really fast, and then give a little bit of information
13 about the SRCs, and then I need the RAC's help to
14 appoint an SRC member.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. For the
17 public, these are the ones, the SRC, I'll read them to
18 you while she's passing out. Thurston Booth, Noatak,
19 Enoch Mitchell, Noatak, Cyrus Harris, Kotzebue, Alex
20 White in Kotzebue, Enoch Shiedt, Kotzebue. Cyrus
21 Harris twice, so he's going to attend the meeting
22 extra. Larry Westlake, Kiana, Hannah Loon, Kotzebue,
23 Victor Karman, Kotzebue.

24

25 MS. ATKINSON: Thank you for reading
26 that. And I just have the Cape Krusenstern roster
27 right now, because that's the appointment that I want
28 to address with you is an appointment to the Cape
29 Krusenstern SRC. But I'll give a little bit of
30 information, remind everyone, and let the public know.

31

32 So we work on Federal subsistence
33 management in the National Park Service, and in our
34 parks and monuments we have a different kind of
35 arrangement, because there's only Federal subsistence
36 hunting on parks and monuments as you all know. But we
37 get the question sometimes why doesn't Noatak National
38 Preserve have an SRC, and so I just wanted to address
39 that since I've been getting that question. Preserves
40 are -- anyone is able to hunt on national preserves.
41 It's not limited to Federal subsistence. And so we
42 don't have a group that's specifically for the Noatak
43 National Preserve, or the Bering Land Bridge National
44 Preserve.

45

46 And we have these special groups, the
47 Subsistence Resource Commissions for the park and the
48 monument. And the RAC in some ways is the more -- kind
49 of the premier forum for discussing Federal subsistence

50

1 management on the preserves. But the SRCs also talk
2 about things that are happening on the preserve, and we
3 kind of take a regional approach, so we talk about
4 things that happen throughout the region.

5
6 And we have our resident zone
7 communities that are all the communities within Game
8 Unit -- or within the Northwest Arctic Borough, and
9 then we also have customary and traditional use
10 communities. And so the Federal subsistence
11 discussions that we're having at the SRCs help
12 subsistence users from all those different communities.

13
14 And the SRCs are made up of nine
15 members, and there's three appointing sources for the
16 members. There's the Secretary of the Interior that
17 appoints three members. There's the Governor of Alaska
18 that appoints three members, and then lucky for us I
19 think, we have three members appointed by the Northwest
20 Arctic Regional Advisory Council. And it's been really
21 great to work with all of you to fill those
22 appointments, and honestly it happens a lot faster
23 working with the RAC than it does working with
24 Washington, D.C.

25
26 And we have -- with the Northwest
27 Arctic Regional Advisory Council appointments, the
28 requirement for that is that the applicant to the -- or
29 the person to be appointed has to be a part of an
30 advisory committee, or they have to be on the RAC. And
31 today I wanted to bring -- does anyone have any
32 questions about that before I move on to the
33 appointment?

34
35 (No comments)

36
37 MS. ATKINSON: A lot of you work with
38 me on the SRCs, so I'm sure you know.....

39
40 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, keep going.

41
42 MS. ATKINSON: Okay. And so the -- I'm
43 sure you noticed on the Cape Krusenstern roster that I
44 handed out that Cyrus Harris is on there twice, and
45 that's because he's been appointed by the Secretary of
46 the Interior, and that happened after he had been
47 appointed by the Northwest Arctic RAC at the March 2016
48 meeting. So he had been appointed by the RAC, then he
49 was also appointed by the Secretary of the Interior.

50

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1 And so he submitted a resignation letter to his seat
2 that was appointed by the RAC. I have it here,
3 addressed to the Chair. I can give you a copy. And so
4 he had resigned his seat, because he's now holding two,
5 and now we have a vacancy. And so I wanted to present
6 -- recommend some subsistence users who would be
7 eligible for that appointment, and who have expressed
8 interest in the seat.

9
10 So one subsistence user is Enoch Adams,
11 Sr. From Kivalina, and he's on the Noatak/Kivalina AC.
12 He is interested in the Cape Krusenstern Subsistence
13 Resource Commission appointment. Another one is Lance
14 Kramer. He is on the Kotzebue Sound AC. He's also
15 interested in the seat. And then the third person is
16 Carmen Monigold. She's on the Kotzebue Sound AC and
17 has applied in the past for SRC appointments. And so
18 those are the three people that have expressed interest
19 to me who are eligible at this point. So I seek your
20 advice in appointing -- or I seek your appointment for
21 this seat.

22
23 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. I think
24 for the seat to be fair -- our chairman is here, Victor
25 Karmun just walked in, to recognize him for this here.
26 And to be fair, I think we need -- I'm not trying to
27 put Monigold down and Kramer down, I think we need
28 someone from the village as Kivalina. That way it will
29 be fair that we have representative from different
30 area. I'm not trying to -- I know they have interest.
31 But if Enoch is willing, I'm going to ask the Council
32 to appoint Enoch Adams from Kivalina.

33
34 Go ahead, Verne.

35
36 MR. CLEVELAND: Don't we have to ask
37 him first? I recognize him on the -- where he go from
38 there.

39
40 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, he already
41 interest. He called her. He already have interest,
42 okay. And then she.....

43
44 MR. CLEVELAND: Then I make a motion to
45 appoint Enoch Adams as Subsistence Resource Commission.

46
47
48 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I'll second it. I
49 can't she said. Go ahead, Enoch. The other Enoch will

50

1 do Enoch, too.

2

3 MR. MITCHELL: As a member of this RAC,
4 too, I'd like to recommend Lance Kramer. He has been
5 active with Board of Game, and he has been a good help
6 with the AC and he had a lot of good input.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you.

9

10 MR. MITCHELL: He has good attendance,
11 and at the.....

12

13 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Hannah. Go
14 ahead, Hannah.

15

16 MS. LOON: I second to Enoch Mitchell's
17 motion to accept Lance.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. And Verne
20 had a motion for Enoch Adams, Kivalina. Do we need a
21 second on Verne's.

22

23 MR. COMMACK: I thought you seconded
24 it?

25

26 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: They say I can't,
27 right? Could I second it? I second it.

28

29 MR. COMMACK: And you do have a lot of
30 guys from Kotzebue here. Why don't we just get one
31 from Kivalina.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: That's what I was
34 recommending.

35

36 MR. COMMACK: And that's why I made the
37 motion.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Like I say, I've got
40 nothing against Monigold and Kramer. I'm just trying
41 to spread out from different villages. So we need to
42 vote.

43

44 MR. COMMACK: Well, there it is; it's
45 from Kivalina. From village.

46

47 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: No, we have another
48 nomination, so we've got to take a vote on it. We'll
49 do it on paper.

50

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1 MR. COMMACK: So my motion died?

2
3 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: No.

4
5 MR. CLEVELAND: I'll second it.

6
7 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. You'll second
8 it. I was told I can't second it, unless there's a tie
9 on this here.

10
11 Okay. Go ahead, Hannah.

12
13 MS. LOON: I make a motion that it be
14 closed.

15
16 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: It is now closed. We
17 have two, one from Kivalina and one from Kotzebue.

18
19 Go ahead, Zach, comment.

20
21 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
22 For clarification, I was hearing that we had two
23 nominations, Enoch Adams from Kivalina and Lance Kramer
24 from Kotzebue. And I'm not certain that we've clarified
25 whether the vote will be between those two nominations,
26 or we've solidified one nominee. Can we please clarify
27 that for the record?

28
29 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Who get the higher
30 votes will get the seat.

31
32 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you.

33
34 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman.

35
36 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead,
37 Percy.

38
39 MR. BALLOT: I'm understanding you
40 guys, you have nomination for Lance and you have
41 nomination for Enoch, but you have another interested
42 party.....

43
44 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yes, there was
45 Lance.....

46
47 MR. BALLOT:and you nominated two
48 of them.

49
50

1 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT:Monigold, and
2 Kramer. There was three for one seat. And we,
3 Kotzebue, have about five already. We don't have one
4 from Kivalina.

5
6 MR. BALLOT: You're asking us to vote
7 on two?

8
9 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: We have to vote on
10 one.

11
12 MR. BALLOT: Oh, one right now?

13
14 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah.

15
16 MR. MOTO: Adam or Kramer.

17
18 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Could you explain
19 where's the boundaries for this SRC, please.

20
21 MS. ATKINSON: Sure. Yeah. I'll
22 explain that. So the Cape Krusenstern SRC, the
23 resident zone communities for the Cape Krusenstern SRC
24 are all of the communities in the Northwest Arctic
25 Borough. However, there are communities that have more
26 frequent use in Cape Krusenstern than other
27 communities, and so we like to have localized knowledge
28 about the subsistence that happens at Cape Krusenstern
29 National Monument, because that's different than what
30 happens in the rest of the region. So we do really
31 benefit with this commission having local knowledge
32 from the communities. And Kivalina and Kotzebue and
33 Noatak being the communities that use Cape Krusenstern
34 the most for subsistence uses.

35
36 Go ahead, Enoch.

37
38 MR. MITCHELL: What happened to Stan?

39
40 MS. ATKINSON: Enoch Mitchell asked
41 what happened to Stan, which is a good question. Stan
42 Holly was in the -- he was in the Secretary of the
43 Interior's appointment for the last couple years, and
44 he was replaced by Cyrus Harris. And I let Stan know
45 that he could apply for this seat that's with the RAC,
46 because he is on an advisory committee, and he was not
47 interested in reapplying for the SRC. And he
48 recommended getting someone else from Kivalina.

49
50

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1 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Hang on. I was told
2 to wait until we get a clarification on my conflict.

3
4 MS. ATKINSON: Yeah.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: So I need someone
7 here to explain it. Go ahead.

8
9 MS. ATKINSON: Also to answer Percy's
10 question, there were three people who were interested
11 in the spot, but there were only two people that were
12 nominated by the RAC, and so you're voting between two
13 people for one vacancy. There's only one seat. And
14 it's between Enoch Adams and Lance Kramer.

15
16 MR. BALLOT: Yeah, that's what I was
17 trying to ask, what's the process. I was just trying
18 to make it fair, because there were other people
19 interested, out of respect for their interest.

20
21 MS. ATKINSON: Well, it's up to the RAC
22 to appoint who you want, so it's whatever the RAC would
23 like.

24
25 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Kramer.

26
27 MR. KRAMER: I'd like to pull my vote
28 due to conflict of interest due to the fact that he is
29 my brother. That way there's no -- and I did vote for
30 Lance, so it's in there, so one of them can get pulled
31 out.

32
33 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. You mean on
34 your vote.

35
36 MR. KRAMER: Yeah.

37
38 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. So now you can
39 pull it out. That's his brother. Okay. Thank you for
40 the clarification. And here's mine. Okay.

41
42 We're clear now. Can we read the
43 results. Everybody turn in their votes. Okay. Thank
44 you.

45
46 MR. STEVENSON: The results, Mr. Chair,
47 are one, two, three, four, five -- six votes for Enoch
48 Adams, and two votes for Lance Kramer. Enoch Adams
49 takes the vote. Would anyone like to confirm that.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I am now confirming
2 it, I could see it from here. Yeah, there is six to
3 three.

4
5 MR. STEVENSON: Well, we again --
6 pardon me, through the Chair. We've removed one of the
7 votes for Mr. Kramer given the information shared by
8 Mike just a moment ago.

9
10 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. For the
11 record, Kramer's vote was pulled out due to conflict of
12 interest, family related.

13
14 MR. STEVENSON: Correct. Correct.

15
16 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. So it's
17 Enoch Adams. Congratulations. Get ahold of him at
18 Kivalina. Okay. Thank you.

19
20 MS. ATKINSON: Thank you so much to the
21 Chair and the Council. I just wanted to share a
22 celebratory moment. With this appointment we now have
23 -- our Cape Krusenstern SRC and our Kobuk Valley SRC
24 are -- all of the appointments are filled, all nine
25 seats, and that's the first time that we've had a full
26 commission since like 2011. So that's only possible
27 because you allow me to present all these applicants
28 and help select the people for the SRC.

29
30 So thank you so much.

31
32 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. And I
33 apologize when I saw -- again I thought it was
34 automatic. I'm so sorry. I'm so use to being with --
35 sorry about that.

36
37 MS. ATKINSON: No problem.

38
39 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: So we'll move on, and
40 somebody refresh my memory from the Board. On 11 we
41 added G, and all I wrote was number 10. Better go back
42 to review the draft.

43
44 MR. STEVENSON: RAC correspondence.

45
46 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Pardon?

47
48 MR. STEVENSON: RAC correspondence is
49 now G.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Oh. RAC
2 correspondence is now G, right, correct me if I'm
3 wrong.

4
5 MR. STEVENSON: That's correct, Mr.
6 Chair. And by way of update, I have been informed that
7 we need to postpone the review of the correspondence,
8 add it into our fall meeting, due to the need for
9 additional review of those items before they can be
10 presented. So with the Chair's permission, we'd like
11 to table that to our fall meeting, if we may.

12
13 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Did the rest of the
14 Board hear him, that we can table this until our next
15 fall meeting. We'll postpone this until our next
16 meeting.

17
18 Okay. We're getting close. Number
19 12.....

20
21 MR. BALLOT: I think an explanation
22 would be in order of why we're going to do that, Zach.

23
24 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Zach.

25
26 MR. STEVENSON: I'm sorry, I didn't --
27 could you please repeat that.

28
29 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: He's explaining why.

30
31 MR. BALLOT: I was just wondering why
32 we're.....

33
34 MR. STEVENSON: Through the Chair. We
35 have five correspondence items, three of which were
36 directed to the Board, two of which were directed to
37 the Davis-Ramoth Memorial School in Selawik. And I
38 have not had the opportunity to share those items with
39 our leadership team, which are required to approve any
40 correspondence items before they can be presented for
41 review and approval by the Council. So I am requesting
42 time to share those items with our leadership team, and
43 I'm requesting that we present those items for review
44 by the Council at our October -- pardon me, fall 2017
45 meeting, our next meeting, with the Council's approval.

46
47 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

48
49 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, Percy? Okay.

50

1 Thank you.

2

3 Now we're into 12. It's now 11:15.
4 And I need someone to time, 15 minutes per agency or
5 tribal government or, you know, and it's all 15
6 minutes. I need somebody with a watch.

7

8 MR. STEVENSON: I'll keep an eye.

9

10 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: And keep an eye.

11

12 MR. STEVENSON: I'll be happy to keep
13 an eye on the time, Mr. Chair.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Keep an eye,
16 and 15 minutes. And the first one will be the tribal
17 governments agency reports. Anyone from the tribal is
18 here to do a report.

19

20 MR. STEVENSON: No one.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Anyone on the phone
23 on number 12, tribal governments.

24

25 (No comments)

26

27 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: If not.....

28

29 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman. I
30 understand you're asking for tribal comments or
31 questions.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I'm just reading the
34 minutes, and, Zach, if you'll explain the agency
35 reports. Go ahead, Zach.

36

37 MR. STEVENSON: Through the Chair. And
38 to respond to Member Ballot's question, per agenda item
39 number 12, agency reports, this is an opportunity now
40 under tribal governments for tribal governments in the
41 Northwest Arctic or NANA region to share any reports
42 that would be of interest to the Federal Subsistence
43 Advisory Council here for the Northwest Arctic.

44

45 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

46

47 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Reports on the
48 activity or what the agencies are doing.

49

50

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1 MR. STEVENSON: This is a broad
2 opportunity for sharing of information -- through the
3 Chair, sharing of information from tribes that would be
4 of interest to the Subsistence Regional Advisory
5 Council.

6
7 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

8
9 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah. Okay. Thank
10 you. Go ahead, Louie.

11
12 MR. COMMACK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
13 I just want to make a brief report on some of the
14 discussion happening in my village of Ambler, and I
15 know of interest back in Kobuk, the concern over the
16 proposed Ambler Mining Road, how it will impact us, all
17 the studies that are being done by Gates of the Arctic
18 and Kobuk Valley on hunting and fishing and tribal
19 lands and everything else pertaining to that issue. So
20 I thought I'd share that with you.

21
22 Thank you.

23
24 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, thanks for
25 bringing it up, Louie. I'll add to it.

26
27 By now I think everybody know I'm heavy
28 into the computer and for the Ambler Road. No matter
29 what we do or decide, the agencies under their policy,
30 they're going to approve it. Eventually it's got to be
31 done. But what I say and I request -- you heard me
32 requested that in order for us to delay the road, I
33 think we need to ask for all kinds of studies being
34 done on actual road plan, even the mouth, to delay it
35 as long as we could. I know it's going to be denied,
36 and I know the agencies are not going to admit it, but
37 to tell you the truth, they will under the Federal --
38 they will have to do it, build this road. Because if
39 this road is built, it could impact us. If there's a
40 spill somewhere, it's not going to only do Ambler; it's
41 going to affect all the other villages and other people
42 that live off the river if there's a spill. And if
43 they build a road, no matter what we do, they will
44 approve it 20 years later for outsiders to come in,
45 like they did on the Haul Road. I'm just putting my
46 two cents out.

47
48 Go ahead, Enoch.

49
50

1 MR. MITCHELL: Point of order.

2
3 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: What? This is the
4 tribal.

5
6 MR. MITCHELL: Tribal reports.

7
8 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Go ahead,
9 Enoch, you could have it. Yeah. But that's what this
10 is all about. And I'm just backing it up really,
11 that's what I've been hearing.

12
13 Go ahead, Louie.

14
15 MR. COMMACK: Yeah. Thank you. I
16 thought I'd bring this out as a concern from my tribal
17 membership. It's not point of order.

18
19 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yes.

20
21 MR. COMMACK: That's why we're here.
22 Quit acting like that. I have a right to defend my
23 people.

24
25 MR. MITCHELL: If there's anyone here
26 from tribal government, please let them state so.
27 Right now we're having RAC meeting, and we're calling
28 for tribal government reports.

29
30 Thank you.

31
32 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Excuse me, Enoch, but
33 that's what he said earlier. He's giving it for his
34 tribal report.

35
36 Go ahead, Hannah.

37
38 MS. LOON: Louie has the right to
39 address his tribal report from Ambler. He is the only
40 one who will address that. Mr. Chairman, I'm sorry to
41 be very disrespectful to you. You just coach the
42 meeting.

43
44 Thank you.

45
46 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. I just take
47 whatever I said back.

48
49 MR. COMMACK: Okay. If I'm not allowed
50

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1 to speak on behalf of the people I represent, then I
2 would like the record to show that I'm not able to
3 speak on behalf of my people. I would like that record
4 to reflect that, so I bring it back to my people.

5
6 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman.

7
8 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead,
9 Percy.

10
11 MR. BALLOT: The way I understand it,
12 too, is we're taking tribal concerns and tribal
13 government reports, and that's exactly what's on the
14 agenda, and that's exactly what you said and what he's
15 trying to do. So I don't know why we don't give him
16 that time.

17
18 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah. Thank you.

19
20 Anyone else for tribal governments. Go
21 ahead, Calvin.

22
23 MR. MOTO: All I have to say about come
24 here to the RAC. Our community, our tribal government
25 have a grant of some money for -- to provide gas and
26 ammunition for anybody who wanted to hunt for elders or
27 people who didn't have hunters in their home. So this
28 is one of the things that I wanted to bring out. Our
29 tribal government is pretty active in a lot of things,
30 but we -- everything we do in our community is for the
31 people. If somebody is short on caribou or anything,
32 they bring them to them. We share. We share all our
33 -- as I was saying the other day that two moose is good
34 enough for the whole community. Three moose is too
35 much.

36
37 Every spring the tribal government also
38 provide ammunition, gas, and oil for hunting oogrucks
39 for the elders. And we have the young ladies that do
40 the skinning and rendering for us for our elders. They
41 always make sure that the elders have enough nickaback
42 (ph) at home. This is what I like.

43
44 And, thank you, I was just bring by the
45 highlights of our tribal government does in our
46 village. Thank you.

47
48 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Calvin.

49
50

1 Anyone else. Go ahead, Enoch.

2

3 MR. MITCHELL: And I stayed back by
4 myself. Sorry about that, Louie. I just didn't hear
5 you state that you were giving your report from your
6 tribal government. It sounded like you were speaking
7 from your own seat on the RAC.

8

9 So before anybody else go forward, I'd
10 like to see if they've got their tribal report and they
11 are allowed only 15 minutes.

12

13 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Enoch, when.....

14

15 MR. MITCHELL: When we -- we had --
16 like I come from -- I was on the tribal government in
17 Noatak, and when we sit on someone's seat, someone
18 ought to speak on behalf of our tribal government, we
19 get approval by the majority of the group of that
20 government. So if you're going to speak, I'd ask that
21 they give -- they speak on behalf of their tribal
22 government, and not from their own seat, because I
23 know, I sit on a tribal government, and we need
24 approval to go and speak like this by the majority of
25 the vote of the Council. So if he's speaking on behalf
26 of Ambler government, I'd like to say he's speaking on
27 behalf of Ambler government, that the Amble government
28 did approve him to speak. I'm not saying that he --
29 I'm not putting him down or anything, but it's just a
30 point of order. I mean, it is under Robert's Rules of
31 Orders.

32

33 Thank you.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. And he
36 stated that he was going to speak for the tribal
37 government at the time. Okay. Thank you. Somebody
38 please.....

39

40 MR. COMMACK: Clarification, please.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Zach, somebody can
43 clarify.

44

45 MR. COMMACK: I would like to clarify
46 that. I not only represent tribal government
47 membership, I represented anybody that is a State
48 citizen in Upper Kobuk pertaining to that road that
49 will be built with Federal funds and State funds, and

50

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1 whatever funds there is. Everybody have a fair shot in
2 what they want to say about that proposed road, whether
3 tribal governments, city governments, the Borough,
4 whoever. That's where I'm coming from. And I do have
5 a right to speak on behalf of people I represent. I'm
6 sorry if it upset some people, but don't try to stop me
7 from doing this, speaking on behalf of my people.

8
9 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Louie.

10
11 Go ahead, Zach.

12
13 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
14 And briefly adding to Member Commack's point, we have
15 later in our agency reports, under National Park
16 Service, invited a presentation from the superintendent
17 of Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve,
18 Marcy Okada, and a researcher that is now working for
19 Gates of the Arctic, her name is Annette Watson. And
20 Annette Watson is presently starting a project in Gates
21 of the Arctic National Preserve affecting the Kuvangme
22 (ph), Upper Kobuk region, looking at subsistence use in
23 that region, and like the project that was done before
24 the Maniilaq Eely (ph) Lagoon Nunanun (ph) documenting
25 our way of life with maps, and forgive my
26 pronunciation, I'm trying, the effort in this new
27 project is to better understand where people go and
28 when for food, so that that information can be done --
29 be used I should say when planning for that future
30 road, if it is built, to do it in the right way.

31
32 So I want to emphasize that Member
33 Commack's point is heard, had been entered into the
34 public record. And, yes, there is an opportunity for
35 any tribal members in the region to share their records
36 given, of course, with the limited time constraints
37 that we have.

38
39 So I hope that helps to provide some
40 clarification. Through the Chair. Thank you.

41
42 MS. LUKIN: (Indiscernible - away from
43 microphones)

44
45 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Maya. Thank
46 you very much.

47
48 MR. CLEVELAND: Yeah. Mr. Chair. I
49 wanted to point out that I wasn't trying to stop
50

1 anybody to speaking on behalf of their tribal. I'm
2 just trying to making sure we stick with the agenda.

3
4 Thank you. We're going kind of on a
5 little bit. But this is.....

6
7 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Let's move on,
8 but for future references on the agenda, I think we
9 need to put tribal, not agencies or anything like that.
10 Anyone in here from the tribal villages, or something
11 like that. And that way they won't get -- because it
12

13
14 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman.

15
16 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Let's move on.

17
18 MR. BALLOT: I've been on this Board
19 for a long time and I remember when we were listening
20 to a request of issues from tribes, and that's why we
21 got it on the agenda. And anybody, whether they're
22 tribal member or from the village, they could bring up
23 these issues, so share information. That's why it's
24 here. That's why we're talking. I don't know why
25 we're trying to change it, but what exactly Zach said,
26 because that we give this opportunity for tribes, just
27 like we're going to have Native organizations. If they
28 want to bring something up, like Maniilaq or NANA, or
29 the Borough want to bring something up, they have that
30 right to. So we're just following the agenda as it is.

31
32 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: The point's well
33 taken. Point's well taken.

34
35 Go ahead, Verne.

36
37 MR. CLEVELAND: Yeah. And we're all
38 appointed by the tribal government.

39
40 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yes. Go ahead,
41 Hannah.

42
43 MS. LOON: I will be very mindful and
44 get a written report from Native Village of Selawik for
45 the falltime meeting. Thank you.

46
47 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Should we
48 move on? Anyone. Okay. Anyone. Due to time -- what
49 time is it? I don't have -- I'm not hungry anyhow. I
50

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1 don't know about anybody. What time is it, I don't
2 have a watch.

3

4 REPORTER: Six minutes to 12.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Six minutes to 12. I
7 think what we need to do is instead of hour 15, we'll
8 take one hour lunch. One hour lunch. We'll resume
9 back our meeting at 1:00 o'clock.

10

11 And you had your hand up, Zach. Make
12 it real brief. Brief is two words.

13

14 (Laughter)

15

16 MR. STEVENSON: Anyone else.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Louie.

19

20 MR. COMMACK: Just a quick point, that
21 Annette is doing a wonderful job. I chair the Gates of
22 the Arctic, and we have put out many, many studies
23 already regarding our way of life, our hunting and
24 fishing practice. And the land use is everything else
25 pertaining to how we live our life out there. So I
26 just want to comment on Annette's report. It's going
27 to be wonderful.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you.
30 Let's go to lunch. See everyone back at 1:00.

31

32 (Off record)

33

34 (On record)

35

36 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: 1:07. We're done
37 with tribal governments. We will move on to Native
38 organizations. Anyone from Native organizations.

39

40 (No comments)

41

42 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I hear a head
43 nodding. It means no from NANA. Anyone else from
44 Native organizations.

45

46 (No comments)

47

48 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: If not, we'll go to
49 ADF&G, Saito. Go ahead, you have the floor.

50

1 MR. SAITO: Good afternoon. My name is
2 Brandon Saito. I'm the area biologist for Fish and
3 Game based here in Kotzebue. This is just a general
4 overview of Unit 23.

5
6 Unit 23 is 43,000 square miles with a
7 population of about 7,700 people and 11 villages. We
8 have a really complicated land status here. We have
9 the large majority, over 60 percent of Federal land you
10 can see in the green. State land is in the blue and
11 pink and red land are NANA lands or owned by the
12 village corporations.

13
14 For State regulations we have two
15 different areas. In the pink up there, you can see
16 that's the area we were discussing up north of the
17 Singoalik drainage. That's Point Hope up there and
18 Kivalina is down here. For moose they have an earlier
19 season just because there's very few moose up there and
20 just by chance moose go up there. And then the
21 remainder is included in one area.

22
23 You might not be able to see this very
24 well, but this is just showing the rivers. We have
25 four major river systems: the Noatak, the Kobuk, the
26 Selawik and the Tag and the Buckland drainage.

27
28 For user conflicts we've set up
29 different user groups. We have a Unit 23 user conflict
30 group and the Western Arctic Herd Working Group. One
31 of the things that they helped create was the Noatak
32 Closed Use Area. It's closed to all aircraft for big
33 game hunting during the hunting season for caribou and
34 moose. Just at this last Board of Game meeting we
35 changed it to go from the mouth of the Aggie all the
36 way up to the Nimi, Nimiuktuk.

37
38 I guess I'll just go quickly over the
39 moose since we already did a lot of moose work here.
40 The current population is estimated at 7,500. That's
41 declining. About 300 moose killed per year. We went
42 over these heat maps and densities and we'll be
43 surveying this Lower Kobuk area here this spring.

44
45 Calf recruitment, you can see the
46 highest densities in the Lower Kobuk. All of them are
47 below what we want to see as 18 calves per 100 adults,
48 but we're below that in all of the areas right now.

49
50

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1 As you can see down here, reported
2 harvest has remained fairly steady since the late '70s,
3 although we've had a small increase in moose hunters in
4 the recent years.

5
6 I'll just go into bears. We don't
7 really know what the population status is. We believe
8 it's stable or increasing. This number, just disregard
9 it. There's only one survey area and
10 it's the Noatak area. This is probably the highest
11 density area that we have in the unit.

12
13 It was originally surveyed back in '87
14 in the Red Dog area and had some other areas out here
15 and then it was surveyed again in 2008 and this is the
16 survey area. And then again we surveyed this with the
17 Park Service in just this last year and they had the
18 results from that. So these are the results from the
19 '87 survey, was one bear every 26 square miles. In
20 2008, we extrapolated the sightability from the first
21 survey and we got 3.5 bears every 26 square miles. In
22 this 2016 survey, we calculated it out -- it's not
23 directly comparable, but it was 4.5 bears per every 26
24 square miles.

25
26 So these are the number of brown bears
27 that were sealed by year. So you can see that it looks
28 like it's slowly increasing, but it can vary year to
29 year drastically depending on how many people hunt and
30 get them sealed. This is the bear seals by user
31 groups, so you can see the green is the non-local
32 Alaskans on the bottom, the purple in the middle is
33 non-residents and then Unit 23 residents is the blue on
34 top. So you can see that the majority of people that
35 are harvesting are non-local Alaskans. So that's the
36 major harvest. And then non-residents are pretty small
37 too.

38
39 Bear skull size. Every bear that's
40 sealed we measure the skull width and length and then
41 we combine them to get a total skull size. This dates
42 back all the way to 1992. You can see that it doesn't
43 look like the skull sizes are going down.

44
45 We have not done any recent wolf
46 surveys, so it's unknown, the status is unknown, but we
47 seal about 60 wolves per year on average.

48
49 This is a graph that we just presented
50

1 to the Board of Game. This is what they wanted to see
2 was when people are harvesting wolves. In what month.
3 So this is September. You can see a large spike during
4 September when the majority of the hunting starts with
5 caribou and moose. Then you can see the slow
6 progression and in the spring is when the majority of
7 the rest of wolves are taken.

8
9 For muskox, this is just for Cape
10 Thompson, the Northern Muskox Herd. We have about 556.
11 The population has been really stable and our harvest
12 is six muskox per year, which is split
13 between the State and Federal hunts.

14
15 This is the range of the muskox. This
16 white area was where they were originally transplanted
17 and this is where they lived for the majority since
18 they've been relocated. This is Unit 23, the rest of
19 Unit 23 that has -- this is pretty much the Noatak
20 drainage where they've expanded to and then they've
21 expanded all the way up into 26A, which is the blue.
22 So these are the number of muskox we find in those
23 areas. There's 226 up in 26A, 82 in the rest and 220
24 in the core area.

25
26 This is just the core area because we
27 normally just survey this area and for the last couple
28 years or every few years we'll survey this entire area
29 to get an idea of the entire population, but usually
30 every couple of years we'll just survey the core area
31 or every year we'll survey the core area at least.

32
33 So these are the numbers. You can see
34 that the population recently since 2011 has remained
35 relatively stable in the
36 core population area. One thing that we were seeing is
37 a decrease of bull to cow, so this is bulls per 100
38 cows. Since 2004 it looks like we've had a steady
39 decline. For yearlings, it's been fairly stable.

40
41 For sheep, this is just the Bairds.
42 This is the longest indicator area that we've had is
43 the Baird Mountains. It's also the most highly used
44 area for Dall sheep hunting. The population is still
45 declining and currently there's no open season.

46
47 So these are the different areas.
48 We're talking about the Bairds, the Delong Mountains up
49 here and then the Schwatka Mountains. So those are the
50

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1 three different areas, but hunting is closed.

2

3 This is just for the Baird Mountains.
4 This last year we weren't able to participate. The
5 National Park Service did this last survey by
6 themselves. You can see the population is still
7 declining even though it was closed.

8

9 For furbearers, these are the average
10 annual harvest that are sealed. So 31 wolverine, 7
11 otters, 103 lynx and 7 beavers. Beavers are not
12 required to be sealed, so that might be
13 underrepresented or is underrepresented.

14

15 That's the conclusion. Do you guys
16 have any questions.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: If you have any
19 questions, could you please come up to the mic, Enoch.

20

21

22 MR. MITCHELL: How often do they do the
23 census for the caribou herd?

24

25 MR. SAITO: Thank you. The census we
26 normally do every two years, but since this decline we
27 started doing it every year. We did it in '15 and we
28 weren't able to count those photos, but we did it again
29 in '16 and we're planning to do it again this year,
30 this summer.

31

32 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Anyone else have a
33 question for Fish and Game.

34

35 MR. BALLOT: Yeah, Mr. Chairman. How
36 come you got no wolf numbers on whatever you called
37 that a while ago, catch?

38

39 MR. SAITO: For the harvest? We have
40 an average of about 60, but that's probably also
41 underrepresented. A lot of people as you guys know
42 self tan, but they're supposed to be sealed. So if you
43 know anybody, just let them know to get them sealed.

44

45 MR. BALLOT: That's just in Buckland,
46 right?

47

48 (Laughter)

49

50

1 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Anyone else have
2 questions for Saito on
3 the report he gave.

4
5 (No comments)

6
7 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Turn the
8 lights back on. Thank you for the report. That was a
9 good report, short and sweet.

10
11 Okay, we're down to U.S. Fish and
12 Wildlife Service, Maya Lukin.

13
14 MR. STEVENSON: No, Susan Georgette.

15
16 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Oh, Susan Georgette.
17 Sorry.

18
19 MS. GEORGETTE: That's okay.

20
21 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: That's Park Service.
22 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Sorry about that.

23
24 MS. GEORGETTE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman
25 and Council Members. My name is Susan Georgette. I'm
26 the Refuge Manager for Selawik National Wildlife
27 Refuge, which is part of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
28 Service. Selawik National Wildlife Refuge is located
29 east of Kotzebue, most of the Selawik River Valley and
30 the Kobuk River Delta, and it's one of more than 500
31 National Wildlife Refuges across the United States,
32 whose mission is to conserve America's fish and
33 wildlife for present and future generations of
34 Americans.

35
36 The first page of the handout just
37 tells you who our staff is. We have nine people, two
38 of them are based in Selawik Village, Frank Berry, Jr.
39 and Nichole Hanshaw. Our staff has been the same as it
40 was the last time I was at the RAC, so nothing new to
41 report there.

42
43 The second couple pages go through some
44 of the projects we're working on. A lot of the work
45 we've been doing is related to climate change in one
46 way or another. The sheefish project I've talked about
47 before. That's going on for 2017 and 2018. That's the
48 project that's looking at whether that big mud slide on
49 this upper Selawik River had an impact on the spawning

50

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1 grounds of the sheefish, which are only a few miles
2 below there.

3
4 It takes sheefish about 10 years before
5 they go back and spawn, so that's why it's taking a
6 long time to see if it's had an impact. We'll know
7 more this year. It looks like last year they thought
8 they would find some grown sheefish from the year of
9 the slump when they would have been hatched, but they
10 didn't find any from that year, so they're thinking it
11 might have had an impact on them, but we'll know more
12 this year.

13
14 We're also doing some work with
15 scientists on the expanding spruce trees. I've noticed
16 -- I'm sure you've all noticed on the tundra there's
17 lots of little spruce coming up and we've been working
18 with a fellow from the Alaska Climate Science Center on
19 that. We're doing some work based out of Selawik
20 Village where we're looking at the impact of thawing
21 permafrost and the nutrients that enter the water and
22 what impact that has on the little phytoplankton and
23 things that fish eat.

24
25 Brittany Sweeney and Siikauraq Whiting
26 do a lot of outreach and education work. We've been
27 active in educating the region about the caribou
28 regulations and moose regulations as they change.
29 We've taken maps to villages and made a lot of visits
30 to try to get the word out on that and help people
31 understand the regulations, which are complicated as
32 you know.

33
34 Last year we had Youth Concentration
35 Core Project in Selawik, so that hired four young
36 people for a month and they helped with maintenance and
37 cleanup and different things in the village. It was
38 real popular. The kids really enjoyed it and we hired
39 one local crew leader in Selawik. And so we're going
40 to do that again this year, hire 14 to 18-year-olds or
41 15 to 18-year-olds and it's a great small employment
42 project in the
43 village that's been good.

44
45 Siikauraq and Brittany also do a lot of
46 youth outings in all seasons. I mean snowmachine
47 trips, berry picking trips. Sometimes for youth,
48 sometimes for community picnics and things. So it's
49 just a great way to get people out on the Refuge who
50

1 might not have a boat in their family.

2

3 We have an active Facebook page that if
4 you ever want to look at. We welcome any new fans of
5 that. Frank Berry, Jr. does a lot of winter trail
6 sticking for us on the Refuge and shelter cabin
7 maintenance, so that's something we contribute to the
8 borough with our staff.

9

10 I have a picture there on the third
11 page about from that big mudslide, the thaw slump, and
12 it shows you how much it has stabilized in recent
13 years, so that's kind of interesting. There's a lot of
14 vegetation growing on it now. There's not nearly that
15 much mud going into the river, so that's been good.

16

17 Then there's a map of the Refuge. So I
18 just try to put those in so people know a little more
19 about where the Refuge is and where the NANA and KIC
20 lands are within the Refuge.

21

22 Then finally the second half of the
23 report I got all the hunter information from our guide
24 and transporters, so I wanted to share that with you
25 because I know there's always great interest in that.
26 The numbers of hunters that are brought in by guides
27 and transporters on the Refuge continues to decline.

28

29 So the height of it in the year 2000 we
30 had 154 guided or transported hunters on the Refuge and
31 last year we had 21 and the year before in 2015 we had
32 47. So the numbers continue to decline of people that
33 are being brought into the Refuge to hunt.

34

35 Yeah, go ahead, Vern.

36

37 MR. CLEVELAND: You know why it's a
38 decline? You guys figure it out?

39

40 MS. GEORGETTE: Well, I've thought
41 about that and the caribou closure -- well, not the
42 caribou closure, the change in caribou migration is
43 part of it because the caribou are really not on the
44 Refuge very much any more in September. So that's one
45 thing. They've been migrating late enough that -- the
46 one guide we have told me that he doesn't even take
47 caribou hunters because the chance that there's going
48 to be caribou there in September is not likely.

49

50

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1 The number of transporters permitted
2 even continues to decline, so this last year we had
3 three people with permits and we have one guide and two
4 of the people with the permits didn't even take any
5 hunters on the Refuge. Most of the local people,
6 there's Arctic Backcountry, Golden Eagle and there's
7 one place called Air Juneau. They get a permit, but
8 they haven't taken anyone out there for a few years
9 now.

10
11 I think some of the transporters just
12 don't want to take a lot of hunters because it's
13 controversial and because they don't really -- you
14 know, they make money flying other people around.
15 Partly I think because the moose population has
16 declined on the Refuge, so there's less good moose
17 hunting there than there once was, but I don't know for
18 sure. Those are my senses of it.

19
20 So these last few pages just show you
21 some of that -- there were nine moose harvested from
22 the Refuge by transported or guided hunters last year.
23 That's half of what was harvested in 2015. In 2004,
24 there were 50 moose harvested and last year there was
25 nine, so it's gone down quite a bit.

26
27 Then there's a few graphs there to show
28 you how much the hunting of guided and transport
29 hunters has declined since the early 2000s.

30
31 The last page has a map that I put
32 these little blue triangles on the places that the
33 transporters or guides took hunters, so you can see it
34 almost all takes place in the Upper Selawik River and
35 then the Upper Tag River, Tagagawik River.

36
37 I didn't go over all the details, but I
38 just wanted to give you an overview of what the Refuge
39 has been up to. You're always welcome to stop by the
40 office or give us a call if we can help with anything.

41
42 Thank you.

43
44 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Susan. Go
45 ahead, Percy.

46
47 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman. I'm just
48 wondering is it possible that you have drop off -- I
49 don't know if it's from Selawik Wildlife or the guides
50

1 from there are transporters, but we keep seeing planes
2 in our area. I mentioned it earlier during the meeting
3 yesterday, but nobody seemed to make a response to my
4 question about whose planes are flying around around
5 the coast by the Buckland side and then up the river.

6
7 It's a small light blue plane. I was
8 trying to get pictures of that plane, but I haven't
9 gotten a hold of those guys. Is it possible to have
10 pictures of transporters that are operating in your
11 area? Because that's where they should be, right, they
12 shouldn't be up on the Buckland side?

13
14 MS. GEORGETTE: Well, the ones -- yeah,
15 I suppose -- so you have State and BLM lands, right? I
16 mean there could be people flying around there for all
17 sorts of reasons, I suppose. I wouldn't really know,
18 Percy, who was flying there. I mean I can always
19 provide numbers of the planes that our transporters
20 have, but they're mostly just the local folks here that
21 are permitted on the Refuge.

22
23 MR. BALLOT: It's not only a question
24 for you, it's a question for others. Is it possible
25 that whatever kind of activity is going around in that
26 area and who's doing this or not that we have some kind
27 of information sharing of what's going on over there
28 because some are thinking the State Troopers that are
29 doing this stuff in planes.

30
31 So there's lots of folks who get mad,
32 hunters get mad when they sit down there three, four
33 days and waiting for something or they go upriver
34 because they can't go up just like every day very
35 often. It's hard for us to get up there. The guys are
36 hunting, waiting and they get frustrated, especially
37 when we wait a long time for the caribou that are
38 already coming from their way. So there's a lot of
39 frustration from our hunters about what kind of planes
40 are running around by the river in our area.

41
42 Did they just move from Noatak or did
43 they moved from somewhere. You know, there's got to be
44 a way to say, hey Fish and Game is just doing this and
45 that or whoever is doing this and that or if they're
46 not supposed to be there, then that's what we want to
47 know. How do we make them account for what's going on.

48
49 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Percy.

50

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1 Anyone else have a question for Susan on her report.

2

3 Go ahead, Raymond. Hannah, you'll be
4 next after Raymond.

5

6 MR. STONEY: The population of the
7 moose in Selawik Refuge, how is it? How did it look
8 like? Is it the same as the other villages around
9 here, the population of the moose?

10

11 MS. GEORGETTE: Thank you, Raymond.
12 The Department of Fish and Game does all the moose
13 census work.

14

15 MR. STONEY: Yes

16

17 MS. GEORGETTE: So the information that
18 Brandon presented about moose is what we use too. We
19 don't do moose counts separately from them.

20

21 MR. STONEY: Okay.

22

23 MS. GEORGETTE: So I think he had said
24 it's a 46 or 44 percent decline over the last, I think,
25 six years. I don't know. Brandon can correct me. But
26 it's been declining quite a bit.

27

28 MR. STONEY: Okay.

29

30 MS. GEORGETTE: And people have told me
31 who hunt in that area how -- I mean people who fly in
32 -- there's some Kotzebue people that fly up into the
33 Refuge to hunt. They've told me that it is harder to
34 find moose than it used to be. I mean I think we've
35 all seen that.

36

37 MR. STONEY: Thank you.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Go ahead,
40 Hannah.

41

42 MS. LOON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
43 Thank you, Ms. Susan Georgette and the Fish and
44 Wildlife for always participating at the Selawik
45 Culture Camp each fall. Thank you very much.

46

47 MS. GEORGETTE: Thank you, Hannah.
48 It's one of the highlights of our year. We really
49 enjoy that. I think we're on maybe the 15th year this

50

1 year, which is really pretty cool that the village
2 really does it. We help support it, but the village
3 has sustained an effort like that for 15 years.

4
5 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you.

6
7 MS. GEORGETTE: Thank you.

8
9 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Good report, Susan.
10 Okay. Back to the agenda. Maya Lukin, National Park
11 Service, Okada and Watson. You have the floor.

12
13 MS. LUKIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For
14 the record, my name is Maya Lukin. I'm the
15 Superintendent for the Western Arctic National
16 Parklands. The Western Arctic National Parklands has
17 Kobuk Valley National Park, the Noatak National
18 Preserve and Cape Krusenstern National Monument.

19
20 The Northwest Arctic Heritage Center is
21 the administrative and interpretive center for the
22 National Park Units. We base our field work from
23 Kotzebue here for the wildlife surveys. Hillary here
24 works real close with Department of Fish and Game.
25 Brandon on the Wildlife Service. Archeological
26 excavations and law enforcement patrols by both plane
27 and boat.

28
29 Most field work happens during the
30 summer season. Some Wildlife Service takes place in
31 the spring and fall. When there's snowfall, there's
32 some Wildlife Service going on right now weather
33 permitting.

34
35 So if you look on this map south you'll
36 see the Bering Land Bridge National Preserve. It's on
37 the Seward Peninsula and managed by the staff and
38 office out of Nome, Jeanette Koelsch is the
39 superintendent there. They're our neighboring Park and
40 we collaborate on several projects with Bering Land
41 Bridge and I believe one of them is the muskox survey
42 right now.

43
44 So we'll go back to the staff slide
45 somewhere. So this is the staff we have stationed in
46 Kotzebue. Myself as Superintendent. We have Hillary
47 Robison, the Chief of Resources. Dan Stevenson is our
48 law enforcement ranger. Vern, I think you've probably
49 met with him. He works closely with trespass officers

50

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1 for NANA and he works closely with the state troopers
2 as well. We have Valerie Atkinson, she's our
3 administrative officer.

4
5 And you know him outside, Masaki
6 Mizushima, he's our interpretive ranger, but his
7 Inupiaq name is Kalu (ph) so feel free to say hi to
8 Kalu outside. We have Delia Shuster, who is our budget
9 specialist. Edwin Vigilon works in maintenance. We
10 have Linda Jeschke, who is our Chief of Interpretation
11 and Alfred Weyiouanna, who is also in maintenance.
12 Rounding it off we have Hannah Atkinson, who is a
13 cultural anthropologist and Allen Beaver, who is our
14 admin tech.

15
16 This is the staff you'll see here at
17 the Northwest Arctic Heritage Center. We just wanted
18 to show you this slide so if you see them out and
19 about, you can know where they work and who they are.

20
21 ANILCA outlines the need for a council
22 of subsistence users to advise the National Park
23 Service on subsistence management. We have two SRCs,
24 Subsistence Resource Commissions. This one is the Cape
25 Krusenstern Subsistence Resource Commission and the
26 next slide is the Kobuk Valley Subsistence Resource
27 Commission and you'll see some familiar faces on there.
28 I know Hannah just talked earlier about the last
29 appointment to the Cape Krusenstern Subsistence
30 Resource Commission. So thank you for taking action on
31 that.

32
33 The Kobuk Valley SRC at their November
34 meeting mentioned the creation of a Caribou Hunter
35 Education Working Group to address the unsafe hunting
36 that's out of line with traditional hunting practices
37 and takes place on the Kobuk River each fall. So the
38 working group meets once a month and one of our short-
39 term goals is to share these guidelines shared by the
40 Kiana Elders Council. They're guidelines for hunter
41 success with all the hunters in the region and those
42 coming up from outside of the region.

43
44 One of the questions we have for you is
45 how do you think that we can share this information
46 with other people. We have both SRCs willing to share
47 this information, the Caribou Hunter Education Working
48 Group willing to share this information, but we're
49 asking the RAC as well how you think it's best to share

50

1 this information. It's from the Inupiat Ilitqusiak for
2 hunter success.

3
4 I think a lot of people have seen this
5 flyer in the past, so we're developing working on the
6 flyer and developing it further right now.

7
8 So the Caribou Hunter Education Working
9 Group would also like to work with the RAC. So if
10 there are important messages coming from traditional
11 knowledge or from regulatory structures, it will be
12 communicated to every Game Unit 23 community. We can
13 really use the Hunter Education Working Group as a
14 vessel to give out that information to all of our
15 communities.

16
17 If you want to be on the Hunter
18 Education Working Group or be further involved with it,
19 you can talk to Hannah Atkinson, she's right over
20 there. A couple examples that we have written down are
21 going over to your culture camps this summer to talk
22 with your youth or doing PSAs on the radio and other
23 things like that. She's available to do those things
24 for you and your communities.

25
26 MS. ATKINSON: Or you can volunteer and
27 do them and I will help.

28
29 MS. LUKIN: Or you can volunteer and do
30 them in your communities and Hannah will help you.
31 That's my part.

32
33 MS. ATKINSON: Anyone have questions so
34 far?

35
36 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Anyone have a
37 question. Go ahead, Vern.

38
39 MR. CLEVELAND: On that caribou
40 education, are you guys doing education for the
41 Outside hunters? When they coming to go out hunting,
42 is there an education for them?

43
44 MS. LUKIN: So that has been brought up
45 at a couple of the meetings, how to give the
46 information to not just local people, but people coming
47 into our region. So we're working with the Hunter
48 Education Working Group to figure out how best we can
49 give that information out.

50

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1 Last year during hunting season I saw
2 this, it was on Facebook, it was on the radio. A lot
3 of local places had them hanging up. I did see one
4 hanging up at Golden Eagle or the old hangar. So it
5 was just this flyer, so some of that -- I think some of
6 it was getting to them, but not every non-local hunter
7 here. So, yes, we understand that and it's one of the
8 issues that we're trying to figure out best. If you
9 have any ideas, feel free to let us know. If you have
10 any ideas on how to better share this information even
11 to non-local people.

12
13 MR. CLEVELAND: I'll storm you.

14
15 MS. LUKIN: Storm me with ideas.

16
17 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Michael.
18 Come on up to the mic. Hannah, you'll be next.

19
20 MR. KRAMER: I know last fall at the
21 Kotzebue IRA when we picked up fuel, the lady there,
22 Jennifer, gave us this flyer. I think anybody who goes
23 into Alaska Department of Fish and Game and gets their
24 hunting license and their caribou ticket they should be
25 given one of these. That way they have a better
26 understanding of -- and, you know, on the back of that
27 flyer it should show that general area of the map where
28 the Elders Council is talking about on the Kobuk River.
29 That way there's a lot less user conflicts.

30
31 MS. LUKIN: Yeah, those are some ideas
32 that have been shared around as well. Like I said
33 before, this was given out last year, this flyer here,
34 and we have permission from Kiana Elders Council to
35 build on this and give additional information as well
36 as we're going to flip it around and some of the ideas
37 are making sure that we have a land map on there so
38 people understand where we're talking about and things
39 like that. And it's easy to look at, one page, fold it
40 up, put it in your bag. Look at it when you're waiting
41 for caribou.

42
43 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Hannah.
44 You'll be next, Percy.

45
46 MS. LOON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank
47 you, Gaduk (ph) Lukin. We did share at the January 24
48 audio conference testimonies with all the user groups
49 involved including here from Kotzebue, including from
50

1 out of town and we did give our appreciation and thanks
2 to the hunters that were able to bring down meat to
3 Kotzebue. I believe two of us thanked the guides who
4 followed the ethical guidelines. They know they bring
5 their meat here and they're very appreciated as well,
6 so it was reciprocal and we did share to them that
7 sometimes we want meat, but we don't know how to get
8 it.

9

10 So thank you.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Go ahead,
13 Percy.

14

15 MR. BALLOT: What kind of activity did
16 you say was going on at the Land Bridge?

17

18 MS. LUKIN: Bering Land Bridge?

19

20 MR. BALLOT: Yeah.

21

22 MS. LUKIN: I just mentioned that we
23 collaborate with BELA and some of their projects.
24 They're doing like muskox surveys and some of our staff
25 helps out. Hillary helps out with those.

26

27 MR. BALLOT: Yeah.

28

29 MS. LUKIN: We're separate from BELA,,
30 but we do work with BELA and then we also work with
31 Gates of the Arctic. They're another Park far to the
32 east of us, but not so far from Kobuk, Ambler and
33 Shungnak. So we work with them as well.

34

35 I also wanted to mention that Gates of
36 the Arctic Superintendent and I believe a couple of
37 their staff are planning to come up to Kotzebue and do
38 a snowmachine trip the first week of April on the
39 trail, so they're going to go to Kiana, Noorvik. I
40 think they're going to try to do the Kobuk 440 trail.

41

42 I was going to do it with them, but
43 it's the week prior and I don't think I'm available,
44 but I might fly up to the Upper Kobuk villages. But
45 they are planning to do a snowmachine trip to talk to
46 the tribes and the community members on that Kobuk
47 River Trail and then come back. Maybe next time I'll
48 go down to Buckland.

49

50

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1 MR. BALLOT: Okay.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you. Go
4 ahead, Vern.

5

6 MR. CLEVELAND: On the culture camps,
7 who do we get a hold of? Like we're trying to get one
8 in Noorvik, that culture camp. Who do we address or ask
9 for donation?

10

11 MS. LUKIN: Well, you could probably
12 ask the borough and NANA for donations, but what I'm
13 saying is -- what we're offering is some assistance
14 after you have that culture camp established. I think
15 Hannah is willing to either come out or help you out.
16 I don't know about donations though.

17

18 MS. ATKINSON: I think I can offer you
19 a little bit of advice about that. I've been working
20 at an archeologically camp where we do a lot of
21 cultural activities. One is archeological methods, but
22 we also have elders come and talk and do some work with
23 scientists. That's down on the Seward Peninsula. So
24 I've been getting involved with this camp down there
25 and learning a lot of different things. That could be
26 happening up in our region too.

27

28 The Park Service doesn't have any
29 funding to put to a culture camp for Noorvik, but we
30 have grants that come from the Murie Science and
31 Learning Center that's down near Denali and the Ocean
32 Science and Learning Center. So there's different
33 kinds of grants that we can point you towards and offer
34 our staff with different expertise to come and teach at
35 those culture camps. So I'd love to talk with you more
36 if you wanted to start one in Noorvik because I think
37 they're really good for the youth.

38

39 MR. CLEVELAND: I'd rather have you
40 talk to the elders in Noorvik because they brought it
41 up at their last meeting.

42

43 MS. ATKINSON: Oh, that's good to know.
44 The next time I get out to Noorvik I'll talk with
45 people there about it or when Maya goes to Noorvik.
46 When one of us does.

47

48 MR. CLEVELAND: Talk to my wife. She's
49 on the Elders Council.

50

1 Thank you. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Someone
4 mentioned that -- Percy I think is the one that
5 mentioned that hunters education
6 program. Correct me if I'm wrong, Saito. I think the
7 user conflict group did that before, right?

8

9 MR. SAITO: Yep.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I see a nod of yes.
12 So it's out there already being handed out to the
13 hunters. That is for your information.

14

15 MR. BALLOT: I have information I
16 wanted to share with whoever is going to work with
17 Noorvik on culture camp. We got a
18 little funding from Maniilaq. We've also got -- RurAL
19 CAP has about \$8,000. It's called RurAL CAP Foundation
20 for culture, rural activities. Just whenever you work
21 with that lady.

22

23 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you.
24 Anyone else have a question or comments for the Park
25 Service.

26

27 (No comments)

28

29 MS. LUKIN: It's her turn.

30

31 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Go ahead.
32 Your turn she say.

33

34 MS. ROBISON: Good afternoon, Members.
35 Thank you for having me here. This is Hillary Robison.
36 I work for the National Park Service. I'm a wildlife
37 biologist and the Chief of Resources. I just wanted to
38 share with you some wildlife resource related
39 information.

40

41 I gave you a handout of a summary of
42 some of the work that's being done and some of it
43 relates to what Brandon already presented to you
44 because many of the wildlife surveys we do together
45 because they're large and involved and requires
46 cooperation between the agencies and Fish and Wildlife
47 Service helps us out as well.

48

49 This is what the handout looks like.

50

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1 On the first page of the handout I just wanted to let
2 you know the types of surveys that will be going on
3 around the region. Currently there's a muskox survey
4 going on on the Seward Peninsula including Bering Land
5 Bridge National Preserve. They're doing a count survey
6 of muskoxen on the Peninsula, including the Preserve,
7 and then there will be a composition survey going on as
8 well and that will be happening in March and April.

9
10 In March and April as well there will
11 be a moose count survey happening, so we'll go into the
12 Lower Kobuk and Squirrel River area and we'll be doing
13 a population count for moose. Additionally, the
14 Department of Fish and Game will be doing a browse
15 survey, which is a helicopter-based survey. So there
16 will be helicopters bopping in and out of that area to
17 assess moose habitat to see how -- to get an idea of
18 the habitat there for moose and the status of the
19 browse condition for moose. In the fall, Brandon
20 mentioned we did a composition survey looking at the
21 number of bulls, cows and calves in that area.

22
23 Also in March and April we'll be
24 conducting a muskox count and composition survey in the
25 core area that Brandon showed you earlier. Then in May
26 we'll be doing a brown bear survey in the Upper Noatak
27 area in May. In July we'll be doing a Dall sheep
28 survey again this year in the Baird and DeLong
29 Mountains because we want to get a good idea of what's
30 happening with that population and there will be a
31 lagoons and whitefish survey happening in July as well
32 in Cape Krusenstern National Monument and also in
33 Bering Land Bridge National Preserve.

34
35 Also a loon survey in July in Bering
36 Land Bridge National Preserve. So those are some of
37 the wildlife survey activities that are happening. It
38 was mentioned at the RAC in the fall that there was
39 interest and better understanding of whitefish, so I
40 wanted to share that information with people. Calvin
41 Moto mentioned, oh, I'm glad they're doing a loon
42 survey, so I wanted to circle up and show you those
43 things that will be happening.

44
45 Brandon already presented on moose
46 information for the whole unit and I already mentioned
47 the surveys that will be done, so I'll just pass
48 through this right now.

1 Brandon mentioned the muskox surveys
2 that we collaborate on. One thing that I will mention
3 is that we are doing a count and composition survey in
4 the area outlined in green on this map, which is what
5 Brandon called the core area. We use this information
6 to understand the population health and the number of
7 bulls and cows and calves in the population. We also
8 use this information to inform harvest levels of the population.
9

10 So during the 2016-2017 hunting season
11 the National Park Service and Fish and Game
12 collaborated to allow a harvest rate that was 2 percent
13 of the total core population in the green and 10
14 percent of the mature bulls in the population. This
15 allowed a harvest of six animals under the State hunt,
16 which is TX106, and the two new Federal hunts, which
17 are FX2312 and FX2303.
18

19 So as of February 27th of this year all
20 six animals were harvested. Four were harvested under
21 the State permit and two were harvested under the two
22 Federal permits. So we'll be using this survey
23 information to help inform harvest going into the next
24 year.
25

26 This is a flyer that we put out last
27 year to announce the two new Federal hunts, so you'll
28 be seeing a similar flyer come out when we announce the
29 opportunity to apply for those hunts and we will
30 probably put that out sometime in April.
31

32 Last May 2016 we did an aerial survey
33 for brown bears in the Noatak drainage and Brandon
34 presented some of the information from the 1980 study
35 and the 2008 study. So in 2016 we found a density that
36 was similar to what Brandon reported from the 2008
37 study. They reported 3.4 bears per 26 square miles and
38 we found 4.5 bears per 26 square miles.
39

40 Like I said, we are planning to do
41 another survey of brown bears in the Upper Noatak
42 drainage too to better understand the population level
43 of brown bears.
44

45 Brandon talked about sheep. I don't
46 have anything -- he covered that well, but I have a
47 couple points to add and one is that we're planning to
48 do surveys in the DeLong and Baird Mountains again this
49 year in July. We have submitted a proposal to study
50

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1 body condition and diet in sheep that would start in
2 fiscal year 2018. So the summer of 2018 and spring of
3 2018 we would be starting a study of diet and body
4 condition in the late winter to see what factors might
5 be influencing the growth or decline of sheep
6 populations.

7
8 I spoke with you earlier about the loon
9 surveys. They do these for red-throated loons and
10 yellow-billed loons in July and they use aerial surveys
11 and they're doing surveys of contaminants. I know
12 people are interested in the influence of contaminants
13 in their environment as well as looking at the genetics
14 of the population.

15
16 Also in July will be the lagoons and
17 whitefish surveys to better understand the whitefish
18 populations and the food web in lagoons. That is a
19 project that is being -- the Wildlife Conservation
20 Society is working with the National Park Service on
21 this project and working also with Alex Whiting and
22 Cyrus Harris and with Marguerite Tibbles at University
23 of Fairbanks to look at overwintering habitat for
24 whitefish. So there's this component in the summertime.

25
26
27 There's a whitefish overwintering
28 component as well. The Park Service and the Wildlife
29 Conservation Society are also looking to address other
30 subsistence priorities with proposed research on trout
31 and Dolly Varden.

32
33 Last August Marci Johnson and myself
34 went to villages within Unit 23 to do outreach about
35 the caribou closure and explain some of the new caribou
36 hunting regulations and we collaborated with the Fish
37 and Wildlife Service, who also traveled to the villages
38 of Selawik, Noorvik, Buckland and Deering. The Park
39 Service went to Noatak, Kivalina, Ambler, Shungnak and
40 Kobuk and Kiana. We discussed changes in caribou
41 hunting regulations and the closure to Federal lands
42 and what that means for non-Federally qualified users
43 and Federally qualified users.

44
45 Last summer the Park Service hosted
46 Camp Willow for the local youth, which is a two-day
47 overnight camp as well as a four-day trip to the Kobuk
48 sand dunes for local youth. The NPS also participated
49 in Camp Sisolik.

50

1 We also have a radio program on Friday
2 mornings where we give updates on what's happening in
3 the Parklands and we give summaries of research that
4 can be found in links that I put on this sheet.

5
6 If you have any questions about
7 anything that I've presented or anything on this sheet
8 I'm happy to discuss it with you. With that I'll take
9 any questions.

10
11 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Percy.

12
13 MR. BALLOT: I just want to make a
14 comment, Mr. Chairman. I really appreciate the efforts
15 of the studies and radio-collaring the Park Service and
16 Fish and Game did. They gave a presentation at
17 Maniilaq and it was well-received by the board. It's
18 good to see that kind of stuff, but, you know, we do a
19 lot of studies in the region and we're over there, over
20 here, but I never see anything going on in Buckland.

21
22 I mean Buckland, Selawik and Deering,
23 nobody studies us, how is our moose doing, how whatever
24 is doing, but there's all these studies of fish and
25 this and this. Come think about us once in a while.
26 Maybe because we're not complaining enough, but we have
27 good animals around too. There's trout and whitefish
28 and pike and we've got the caribou and all that kind of
29 stuff. If you want to check us out a little bit, think
30 about it.

31
32 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead, Vern.

33
34 MR. CLEVELAND: Yeah, we talk about
35 fish and stuff like that, but I never hear anybody
36 talking about beavers. Once the beavers make a dam,
37 the fish can't go in and spawn. We're getting sea
38 beavers even down here. I think they're migrating this
39 way. Nobody mentions or talks about beavers and I
40 think they're getting to be at large. I eat the fish
41 in that one creek right below Shungnak. When I went up
42 there a couple years ago, it was dammed up with beaver
43 dam. That's where we used to get our whitefish from
44 and it's no longer there.

45
46 So we have to do another thing for
47 beavers or do we get our own dynamite and start blowing
48 up dams? I have no idea. Thank you.

49
50

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1 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I understand what
2 you're saying about beavers, Vern. Go ahead, Louie.

3
4 MR. COMMACK: Yeah, along the lines of
5 what Vern was saying. We've been complaining about the
6 beavers in Upper Kobuk the last 10 years and there's no
7 response either. Now we're getting complaints from
8 Point Hope backed up by beavers behind the village.
9 Kivalina it's starting to happen. It's happening all
10 over. Our creeks are dammed up like was mentioned.
11 We're overrun by beavers now. It's getting to the
12 point where we used to fish in those sloughs we don't
13 anymore.

14
15 Thank you.

16
17 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Louie. In
18 that line I'll add to what Louie said. I went to
19 Fairbanks a couple years ago and the Indians from
20 Nenana heard I was at Fairbanks, so they came over and
21 told me if you could stop the beavers from coming to
22 northwest Alaska, try your best for them not to get
23 here, but I don't think we could stop them because what
24 they told me is at Nenana where they used to get lots
25 of whitefish there's so many beavers in that creek that
26 they died off and they can't get any whitefish anymore.
27 That's advice they gave me. They said if you could
28 stop it. But I don't think we could really do anything
29 unless somehow the price of beaver go up. If they keep
30 being plentiful, the price is going to go down. Just
31 wear out your beaver hat a little faster and get
32 another one. That's all I could advise.

33
34 (Laughter)

35
36 MS. LUKIN: We were just talking about
37 funding, so I wrote it down. We'll look into figuring
38 out what we can do. I will mention that at one of our
39 SRC meetings I think we were talking about predators or
40 invasive species and our Deputy Director Joel Hard
41 mentioned down where he was the superintendent before,
42 I believe in Lake Clark, they had a beaver issue as
43 well.

44
45 You know, the Park Service can't say
46 let's go out and get beavers, but what we can do is
47 encourage you to have cultural camps on how to trap
48 beavers, how to skin beavers and how to teach the youth
49 those cultural activities related to possible invasive
50

1 beavers. So along the lines of cultural camps and
2 having the Park Service assist you with your cultural
3 camps, those are some of the things that we can do. We
4 don't want to just say we can't do nothing. So those
5 are just some of the ideas that we can come up with to
6 do what we can regardless of whether we can't or not.

7

8 Louie, put your traps out.

9

10 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I understand what you
11 mean because we had before at the school some people
12 coming from the Interior and that room was crowded
13 because they wanted to learn how to get them and how to
14 skin them. I think as a refresher course, I'll be one
15 of them to go there. They're a pain in you know where.
16 I know what you're saying Louie and the others.

17

18 Go ahead, Vern.

19

20 MR. CLEVELAND: Yeah, if you know how
21 to skin oogruk, you know how to skin beaver. Same way,
22 same thing.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I've got to tell my
25 wife to do it then. Anybody else. Go ahead, Kramer.

26

27 MR. KRAMER: Yeah, Mike here. I know
28 that the beavers are starting to go into places where
29 people can't get to them. Even in October, November
30 when it's prime trapping time, people can't get to
31 those remote places. The last time I went sheep
32 hunting was back behind Imuruk Mountains and that was
33 the first time I ever seen the creek that low before.
34 So we hiked way up there. We hiked up about eight
35 miles and we walked up upon a beaver dam that went
36 about three-quarters across the valley. A beaver dam.
37 When we were standing in the creek bed, the dam was
38 about as high as this ceiling in the creek bed and the
39 water was at that top.

40

41 That's how crazy it is. I mean that's
42 a very remote place and by the time winter comes around
43 and you could actually get up there if you get snow,
44 by then the ice is too thick to even trap them. I see
45 them up in Wrench Creek and the Kelly. They're
46 starting to go everywhere. One of these days they're
47 going to start affecting our trout in the Noatak and
48 the Kivalina and so on and our chum salmon. They're
49 already affecting our sheefish.

50

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1 I talked to people in Selawik and they
2 said they can't even get -- some people can't even get
3 to their camps that they used to go a long time ago.
4 So beaver is going to be a never-ending problem until
5 they figure out a way to do some kind of -- allow
6 people to go out there and get them with the airplanes,
7 land and set traps and be able to harvest them where
8 other people are unable to go with snowmachines.

9
10 I know my brother traps back here and
11 he might get 20, 30 beaver a year and by the time the
12 next winter comes around it's like he didn't even do a
13 thing. He just keeps hitting those same lodges and
14 then he finds new lodges and this peninsula back here
15 is just full of beavers and otters. Whatever we do
16 it's like we're going backwards.

17
18 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, thank you. Go
19 ahead, Zach.

20
21 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
22 To Member Cleveland's point a moment ago about beaver.
23 I recall the Northwest Arctic Borough Mapping Project
24 in Selawik, people saying that beaver there were also
25 an issue, particularly with water quality. Going to
26 the bathroom in the water and affecting water quality.
27 That was an issue there. I also recall Lance Kramer
28 providing a large frozen beaver on my desk one morning
29 and teaching youth about skinning beaver.

30
31 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

32
33 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Anyone
34 else.

35
36 MR. BALLOT: I think culture camps are
37 good to teach the kids. We need to explore that
38 because right in Buckland there's hardly any beaver. I
39 don't know where they went. Like I say, we've got a
40 lot of hunters we need to encourage these young folks
41 to do some of these activities now.

42
43 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, thank you. Go
44 ahead, Raymond.

45
46 MR. STONEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
47 One thing we could say something about the beaver it's
48 everywhere. Like in Kiana area Squirrel River and
49 Upper Kobuk River on Salmon River and Hunt River. Most
50

1 of those places are completely 100 percent contaminated
2 from beavers everywhere. That's why we have to think
3 about maybe legalizing hunting beavers somehow, but
4 nobody wants to hunt them. But there's a lot of lakes
5 contaminated.

6
7 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

8
9 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Raymond.
10 I think what we need to do now, the way you said, we
11 need to go to the Maniilaq Health Board to say we need
12 your help on the beavers. We've got two of them here.

13
14 (Laughter)

15
16 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Because I know what
17 you're saying, they are dangerous and we're not
18 educated on it. Thank you, Raymond.

19
20 Anyone else. Go ahead, Louie.

21
22 MR. COMMACK: My question is, is Marcy
23 going to be on giving
24 a report on Gates of the Arctic? Okay, thank you.

25
26 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Mike, you had
27 something.

28
29 MR. KRAMER: Yeah. My question is
30 about the sheep. Are you guys going to try and start
31 considering how bad the wolves impact the sheep? I
32 know quite a few years ago I'd go out and I'd find half
33 eaten Dall sheep that wolves had killed and I know a
34 lot of times they go up into the high country and up
35 into the Castle Rocks and chase sheep into the deep
36 snow and pick them off down there. I know that wolves
37 are a continuous problem with our sheep.

38
39 I think within the next two years there
40 needs to be some kind of a study where they have packs
41 marked out or one of the alphas collared or something
42 to where they could start knowing where these packs
43 reside. That way we could have a general idea of where
44 they are, how much of an impact they're having on the
45 sheep. There needs to be some kind of a study to where
46 they can figure out what wolf packs reside within those
47 Dall sheep areas to find out which ones are harvesting
48 sheep, which packs of wolves are taking sheep within
49 the Federal lands.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, thank you. Are
2 you two done?

3
4 MS. ROBISON: Yes. I wanted to circle
5 up with Percy and let him know that -- this is Hillary
6 Robison for the record. I wanted to talk with Percy
7 about the muskox harvest in 23 Southwest and the number
8 of permits that were there for muskox.

9 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Back to radio
10 land. Who's next in radio land. You have the floor.

11
12 MS. OKADA: Marcy Okada, Subsistence
13 Coordinator with Gates of the Arctic National Park and
14 Preserve. I'm just going to start my update. I have a
15 little bit of information about sheep hunting. Sheep
16 hunting is not completely closed in Unit 23. The
17 western portion or the Schwatka Mountain area is now
18 open for sheep hunting, but this area is limited to
19 just the communities of Ambler, Shungnak and Kobuk.

20
21 Also recently Board of Game Proposal 11
22 was passed at the meeting in Bethel January 6th through
23 9th this year. Now there is a requirement of having a
24 State harvest ticket when hunting sheep in Gates of the
25 Arctic National Park. This is a new hunting
26 requirement for the residents of Ambler, Shungnak and
27 Kobuk when they hunt in Gates of the Arctic.

28
29 Related to subsistence, the Gates of
30 the Arctic Subsistence Resource Commission met on
31 November 15, 2016 in Fairbanks. Louie Commack, Jr. is
32 the chair of this Commission. The Commission provided
33 comments on Arctic and Western Region Board of Game
34 proposals and received updates from National Park
35 Service management staff on natural and cultural
36 resources. The next meeting is scheduled for this
37 coming spring.

38
39 Lastly, just a quick update on the
40 Ambler Mining District Industrial Access Project.

41
42 The Alaska Industrial Development and
43 Export Authority filed an application for a road
44 right-of-way permit across Gates of the Arctic National
45 Preserve in accordance with ANILCA Section 201(4). On
46 July 24, 2016 the National Park Service notified AIDEA
47 that their information in the application was
48 sufficient and the National Park Service would proceed
49 with the permitting process.

50

1 Although the Ambler Mining District
2 Industrial Access Project is for a road from the Dalton
3 Highway to the Mining District, the National Park
4 Service permitting process will only consider the
5 portion of the project which crosses the Kobuk River
6 unit of Gates of the Arctic National Preserve. The
7 permit application proposed two alternatives for
8 consideration: a "northern route" and a "southern
9 route" across the Preserve; either section is about
10 20-22 miles. The National Park Service is now starting
11 to prepare an Environmental and Economic Analysis
12 which will help decide which route the National Park
13 Service will recommend for the right-of-way.

14
15 The Bureau of Land Management is the
16 lead agency in preparation of an Environmental Impact
17 Statement which will evaluate impacts of the entire
18 length of the road. The EIS process will include
19 public scoping meetings and the National Park Service
20 will consider information gathered in that process.
21 The National Park Service will schedule village
22 consultation meetings for the Environmental and
23 Economic Analysis in the near future.

24
25 For more information, please contact
26 our Superintendent for Gates of the Arctic, Greg
27 Dudgeon. His contact information should be listed on
28 the update that was handed out.

29
30 Are there any questions.

31
32 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Anybody have a
33 question for Marcy. Go ahead, Vern.

34
35 MR. CLEVELAND: Yeah, did she say the
36 sheep hunting was open in Upper Kobuk? Did I hear
37 that?

38
39 MS. OKADA: That's correct. The
40 western portion of Gates of the Arctic is in Unit 23
41 and that's the Schwatka Mountains area and because it's
42 considered hard park that's only open to resident zoned
43 communities and those are just Ambler, Shungnak and
44 Kobuk.

45
46 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: You're from Noorvik.

47
48 (Laughter)

49
50

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1 MR. L. KRAMER: You're from Noorvik,
2 Vern.

3
4 (Laughter)

5
6 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, we hear you.
7 I'm just teasing Vern. He's getting excited, but he's
8 from Noorvik. He's not going to change his residence.

9
10 MR. CLEVELAND: Thank you.

11
12 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Anybody else.
13 Go ahead, Mike.

14
15 MR. KRAMER: Yeah, Marcy, I could swear
16 in one of the last one or two meetings that we had we
17 had suggested that that area had been closed if I
18 recall because I remember we voted on it or we put in a
19 proposal to close that area for Dall sheep hunting to
20 preserve what we already have.

21
22 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead and answer,
23 Marcy.

24
25 MS. OKADA: There was an exception to
26 that proposal and it was decided that there wasn't a
27 steep drastic decline in the sheep population in the
28 western portion of Gates, so we would keep that area
29 open for Ambler, Shungnak and Kobuk residents.

30
31 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Go ahead,
32 Mike.

33
34 MR. KRAMER: What was your guys's last
35 census of that area and how many sheep are within that
36 area in harvestable amounts?

37
38 MS. OKADA: I'm not actually the sheep
39 biologist that did the survey. I think we might have
40 Kumi Rattenbury, who is the biologist, on this
41 teleconference. But I know that park-wide the last
42 survey that was conducted for the entire unit was in
43 2015, but I don't know the numbers.

44
45 MS. RATTENBURY: Hi, Marcy. This is
46 Kumi. I am on the line in Fairbanks. Hello everybody
47 with the RAC. It's been great listening to the
48 meeting.

49
50

1 The last survey we did (indiscernible)
2 was in 2015 and the one prior to that was in 2010. So
3 we saw a big drop in the northeastern part of the Park
4 around Anaktuvuk Pass, but in that area and Upper
5 Noatak River there wasn't a huge change in the number
6 of adult sheep between 2010 and 2015.

7
8 So basically from the Alatna River west
9 we estimated there were around 900 adult sheep. Those
10 sheep are also -- their populations are connected with
11 the central range sheep, so they are in a little bit
12 better shape than the ones in the western Brooks Range
13 as far as recruitment from sheep living even further
14 east of that area.

15
16 Like I said, the Upper Noatak River
17 area did not show the big decline that we saw in the
18 Baird Mountains or DeLong Mountains further west or in
19 northeastern Gates of the Arctic or some portions of
20 the Arctic Refuge, so that's part of the reason. The
21 other thing is harvest is very low from the communities
22 for the Upper Noatak River, so it's thought that the
23 maximum number of 3 to 5 sheep in a given year the
24 population can basically sustain that low level of
25 harvest.

26
27 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, thank you. So
28 that's way up there from our area. You've got to be
29 from that area to harvest. Anyone else.

30
31 MR. BARTLETT: From the peanut gallery.

32
33 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead. You
34 have the floor.

35
36 MR. BARTLETT: I'm actually calling in
37 from Fairbanks, but I'm waiting on an opportunity to
38 speak about Wildlife Special Action 16-01. Is this a
39 good time?

40
41 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Hang on a minute.

42
43 MR. STEVENSON: Through the Chair.
44 Sir, I don't know your name or your affiliation or
45 location. If you'd state that in just a moment. For
46 clarification, Wildlife Special Action 16-01 has not
47 been on the agenda or discussed today. That's already
48 in effect. That was the existing closure of Federal
49 public lands in Unit 23 to caribou hunting by non-

50

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1 Federally qualified subsistence users and that was
2 approved and it's currently in effect and expires on
3 June 30th of this year.

4
5 So I just want to clarify is that what
6 you want to address? I wasn't certain. And if you'd
7 also please identify yourself. Thank you, sir.

8
9 MR. BARTLETT: Absolutely. I was just
10 waiting for an opportunity. Thank you. My name is
11 Larry Bartlett. I'm calling from Fairbanks. I
12 represent myself as a public landowner as well as the
13 chair of Alaska Backcountry Hunters and Anglers.

14
15 I had a public landowner drop off a
16 video to Zach. He should have at least 10 or 11 videos
17 that I would like to submit to this Council entitled
18 Wildlife Special Action 16-01. That's the promise I
19 made to Noatak, Kobuk, Kiana, Kivalina last July in
20 reference to hunter education and how public landowners
21 use this land. I told your Council members in the
22 Federal Subsistence Board that I hunt that region
23 despite the closures placed on me by Wildlife Special
24 Action 16-01. I'll do that below mean high water mark.

25
26 So I ask you to consider this video
27 before voting in the future to pass continuation of
28 that closure.

29
30 MR. STEVENSON: Pardon me, Mr.
31 Bartlett.

32
33 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Could you hang on a
34 minute. Go ahead, Zach.

35
36 MR. STEVENSON: Just for clarification,
37 Mr. Bartlett, we had an opportunity on agenda item
38 number 9, which was the opportunity for public and
39 tribal comment on non-agenda items. Just for your
40 information, Mr. Jared Cummings, a pilot here in town,
41 provided me with approximately 11 copies of that video
42 requesting that that be circulated to the Council
43 Members and Federal Staff and I will make certain to do
44 that. But in the interest of time and our limited
45 availability, we need to stay on agenda.

46
47 MR. BARTLETT: I apologize for breaking
48 protocol. I just wanted to make sure the Council had
49 the opportunity to have this hunter education.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: We'll look at the
2 tapes at a later time. We need to keep on with our
3 agenda because we had it early on like Zach said on
4 number 9 and we are into 12. Okay. Sorry.

5
6 MR. BARTLETT: I'm sorry. Thank you
7 for the consideration.

8
9 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Now where are
10 we at now? I lost my train of thought. We're under
11 BLM. No?

12
13 DR. WATSON: National Park Service.
14 This is Annette Watson.

15
16 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Park Service, okay.
17 You have the floor.

18
19 DR. WATSON: Thank you. My name is
20 Annette Watson. I'm a professor of geography from the
21 College of Charleston. The National Park Service has
22 contracted me to complete the following study,
23 Ethnographic Overview and Assessment of the Southern
24 Preserve Unit of Gates of the Arctic National Park and
25 Preserve.

26
27 The two objectives of this study are to
28 weave together the different strands of literature
29 examining the historic and contemporary land use of
30 Upper Kobuk Nation and Koyukon Athabaskan Tribes of the
31 Upper Koyukuk River and then to develop an
32 understanding of the changing ecological and social
33 contacts of subsistence in the southern preserve of
34 Gates of the Arctic National Park.

35
36 The tribes that I've engaged in this
37 study are Ambler, Shungnak, Kobuk. And I am speaking
38 to you from Ambler today. As far as Upper Koyukuk River
39 communities involved are Huslia, Hughes, Alatna,
40 Allakaket, and Bettles/Evansville. The purpose again
41 of this study is to develop a very long-term
42 understanding of land use change over time and the
43 history of trade between the Upper Kobuk and Upper
44 Koyukuk River people.

45
46 Most of this history will begin in
47 about 1838. I have a series of maps that I've been
48 creating for the purpose of tribal review. I am going
49 to be able to compare the last two generations of
50

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1 subsistence use patterns in these village locations or
2 in the area of these village locations. In the next
3 couple months I'll be returning to each of these
4 villages to consult with the people to interpret why
5 subsistence patterns have changed over time.

6
7 This report will be submitted to the
8 Park Service at the end of May for their future work
9 that they are doing. So I'll just be brief and leave
10 it at that. If there's any questions right now, I'll
11 be happy to answer.

12
13 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Zach.

14
15 MR. STEVENSON: Through the Chair. Dr.
16 Watson, if you would please briefly explain how this
17 project will be use, by whom and for what purpose.

18
19 Thank you.

20
21 DR. WATSON: I am not determining any
22 sort of particular use of this study. I was contracted
23 to understand the dynamics of subsistence over time,
24 but I do know that Gates of the Arctic will be
25 including this study amongst their studies for
26 assessment of the road to the Ambler Mine. But it will
27 be used for any subsistence management decisions into
28 the future.

29
30 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Anyone else have
31 questions. Go ahead, Louie.

32
33 MR. COMMACK: The studies help us
34 determine the impact of the proposed mining road on the
35 villages of Interior and Upper
36 Kobuk people and all along the Kobuk River. The studies
37 on fish and game, economic studies, any kind of study
38 we could think of before it actually happens. So these
39 studies are being brought forth.

40
41 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Louie. Go
42 ahead, Zach.

43
44 MR. STEVENSON: Through the Chair. For
45 the Council's information, while in Fairbanks last week
46 at the Western Interior Regional Advisory Council
47 meeting, their Chairman, Mr. Jack Reakoff, had also
48 requested an update from Dr. Watson on this project and
49 has requested updates as this project moves forward to
50

1 keep their Council informed as to its status.

2

3 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

4

5 MR. COMMACK: Thank you.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Anyone
8 else have a question.

9

10 (No comments)

11

12 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: If not, we will move
13 on to BLM. Tom Sparks, Nome.

14

15 MR. SPARKS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
16 Members of the Council. Some of you look familiar. I
17 know a lot of you and myself haven't met, but I've been
18 in Nome almost four years now. I married a woman from
19 Savoonga. We've been married over 30 years. We have
20 four children all grown. I think it's kind of
21 important you guys know a little bit about me.

22

23 I've been with BLM since '03 and before
24 that I was with the USDA for about three years there in
25 Nome. I did some things when I was with the USDA up
26 here in Kotzebue, the new water tank, a couple projects
27 locally, the art center across the street, helped fund
28 that. So been around a little bit.

29

30 I was just asked to go to this meeting
31 early this week and so I didn't get time to prepare
32 anything in writing and I apologize for that.
33 Hopefully they'll get me more engaged and I'll be able
34 to get a nice fancy presentation like the other
35 presenters. I do think it's important that we're here.

36

37 Our office in Nome has been myself for
38 quite a number of years. We just hired a biologist
39 there this fall, Brian Ubelaker, so now we have two
40 staff members. As many of you know, the Kotzebue Field
41 Station has been vacant for three years now. John
42 Erlich was our local hire here and he left the Bureau
43 and we haven't filled that position since then.

44

45 We've had a lot of help from the Park
46 Service and Fish and Wildlife to help take care of our
47 buildings and watch it. We do have staff that come up
48 intermittently during the summer to perform some work
49 out here and also in the fall time.

50

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1 Just a little bit about what's going on
2 with Anchorage Field Office. It's quite large, from
3 Kivalina south past Anchorage, so our geographic
4 boundary is huge. We have a rather small staff located
5 in Anchorage and I'm the only member that's in Nome.
6 Bruce Seppi here, our subsistence coordinator and
7 wildlife biologist, is located in Anchorage. So we're
8 hoping to build up northwest a little bit and I hope I
9 can work with the Council more closely in years to
10 come. So it's a pleasure to be here.

11
12 We do have quite a number of projects
13 that have taken staff time up quite a bit. We have a
14 bit land use plan that's being initiated. It's to the
15 lands of Nulato Hills and south of Unalakleet, so I
16 don't really see it affecting you guys directly, but
17 it's something that I did want to mention to you
18 because it does take staff time and effort.

19
20 We also have a couple of big projects
21 before us, the Donlin Pipeline Project, about a 300-
22 mile pipeline project as a right-of-way application
23 that's before the Bureau and that's taken a lot of
24 staff time as well.

25
26 As many of you mentioned, the Ambler
27 project BLM is the lead on that. It's being done out
28 of our State office and we have a person that's a lead
29 on that. I'm going to try to get some more information
30 to pass on to the RAC here to update you as far as that
31 application, but it's relatively new application.

32
33 The other thing I wanted to mention is
34 BLM does have a land use plan for this area. It's the
35 Kobuk-Seward Land Use Plan. It was done in the fall of
36 '08 and that plan called for a step-down plan for the
37 Squirrel River. We have not been able to finish that
38 plan. We started out of the Fairbanks office and about
39 four years ago the Fairbanks office boundary changed
40 and the magic line went to the Anchorage Field Office.
41 So it's incumbent upon us to work on that plan
42 together. There's been a lot of changes since that
43 plan was done not only in the migration patterns of the
44 caribou, hunting pressures, but also some regulatory
45 changes and some land status changes in the Squirrel
46 River. We are committed to seeing that plan be done.

47
48 I just wanted to not say too much. I
49 know it's been a long couple of days, but I wanted you
50

1 to know that we're still around. My contact in Nome if
2 you want to get a hold of me by phone it's 443-2177 and
3 in the phone book under the Federal government. You
4 can find us there. If you want to send an email to me,
5 it's
6 tsparks@blm.gov.

7
8 The other things I heard that kind of
9 was interesting here was like with maps and so forth.
10 BLM as an agency we are a combination of general land
11 office the United States called the GLO and the Grazing
12 Service. That's BLM's history. General land office,
13 we do all the titles on behalf of the United States
14 government to individuals, corporations, like ANCSA and
15 we do all the surveys for the United States government
16 too.

17
18 So we're like the titleholder for the
19 United States government. So all land titles pass from
20 BLM to other folks. So we hold all those records. In
21 Alaska, that's one of our major focuses because we
22 still have not conveyed all the lands under the Native
23 Claims Settlement Act or the Statehood Act. So it's a
24 tremendous amount of work for us to do and that's our
25 primary responsibility as well.

26
27 So, with that, I'd be happy to answer
28 any questions that you have or questions for Bruce.

29
30 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I have one before I
31 get to you, Percy. Your vacant seat here in Kotzebue,
32 what would it take to fill it? That way we have
33 someone here.

34
35 MR. SPARKS: Money, I believe. We do
36 not have that on our table of organization right now.
37 That position was actually filled out of the Fairbanks
38 Office, so we didn't get the funds
39 when the boundary shift occurred. I know it must be
40 frustrating for you folks because there's no local
41 person.

42
43 As you know, Randi Meyers had that
44 position for many years. I worked with her out of Nome.
45 Currently we don't have a plan to fill that position.

46
47 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Percy,
48 you had one.

49
50

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1 MR. BALLOT: Yeah, I was just wondering
2 -- I don't know if John left. I think he got sent out.
3 But, anyway, I was just wondering your
4 responsibilities, you said you're titleholders. I'm
5 from Buckland and we have a historic trail, a winter
6 trail by
7 snowmachine from Buckland to Koyuk and to Hot Springs.
8 And we've been trying to get easements or I don't know
9 what it is my staff has been trying to do to get some
10 kind of a title or approval for us to put it on our
11 inventory so we could get more funding for maintaining
12 the road or activities and stuff.

13
14 So what do I need to do?

15
16 MR. SPARKS: Is that through the IRR
17 Program, Indian Roads Program? We've sent letters out
18 before to various tribal organizations that are doing
19 inventories. I'm familiar with that process with
20 Bering Straits. So you could send a letter if you want
21 a formal letter for example. BLM, unless it's a 17B
22 easement, which many of you may be familiar with, where
23 those are reserved through Native corporation lands to
24 adjacent State or Federal lands. We don't have
25 designated easements, so members of the public,
26 depending on our land use plan, are free to cross
27 country travel.

28
29 So I think just getting a hold of us if
30 you'd like a letter in support, we'd be happy to do
31 that for you.

32
33 MR. BALLOT: Okay. I'll have my staff
34 get a hold of you.

35
36 MR. SPARKS: Sounds good.

37
38 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Go ahead,
39 Zach.

40
41 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
42 To briefly respond to a point that Member Commack had
43 raised earlier this afternoon regarding tribal
44 consultation. I wanted to briefly mention that at our
45 recent neighboring RAC Western Interior last week in
46 Fairbanks BLM had shared an update on a big project
47 that they're working on now. Updating a land
48 management plan in Central Yukon.

49
50

1 Getting back to Member Commack's point,
2 I would say that working through OSM, if any of the RAC
3 members had an interest or questions about future
4 planning processes that may affect BLM lands in
5 Northwest Arctic and would like more information from
6 BLM, I personally found their staff to be tremendously
7 helpful and responsive. In particular, Erin Julianus
8 and Mr. Seppi, who is here today, were very helpful in
9 sharing information.

10
11 Again, I'd leave that door open if the
12 RAC would ever like information on what's happening
13 with BLM and would like more information, just give us
14 a call and we could help to arrange that information
15 sharing, responding to Mr. Commack's point.

16
17 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

18
19 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Anyone
20 else. Go ahead, Louie.

21
22 MR. COMMACK: Thank you. I'm glad you
23 brought that up. I think it would be beneficial to our
24 region if we did information sharing with BLM. We need
25 to be on top of all the stuff you're doing because it
26 has a reflection on our way of life in travel, trails,
27 all that stuff.

28
29 Thank you very much.

30
31 MR. SPARKS: I just wanted to mention I
32 became an associate field manager about a year and a
33 half ago, so I'm kind of -- I don't want to say I'm
34 wielding a lot of power, but I do have some. Any time
35 you want to direct a government-to-government meeting
36 all you have to do is request it and we'll try to be
37 there for you. As you know, we have some funding
38 issues and things going on politically, but we've made
39 a commitment to do that, so we'd be happy to.

40
41 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, thank you.

42
43 MR. COMMACK: Just a quick response.
44 When you say government-to-government, our group here
45 is not a government. The government we're talking
46 about is the tribal government or the State.

47
48 MR. SPARKS: Yes, yes.

49
50

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1 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, thank you. I
2 had Vern's hand up, Enoch, next Percy, in that order.

3
4 MR. CLEVELAND: We had a small fire
5 between Kiana and
6 Noorvik last fall and we called BLM and they were shut
7 down. Ashes were coming down from the sky and we had
8 no way to turn it off. We called BLM and they were
9 scrambling. No plane. Everything was shut down. I
10 brought this up in our meeting in Anchorage that maybe
11 BLM should be here until the snow falls, not pull out
12 early, because it was endangering the people of
13 Noorvik. We had no way to turn the fire off and they
14 were scrambling from some place down state getting a
15 retardant to fly up this way, but it would have been
16 too late.

17
18 I brought it up to the field supervisor
19 in Anchorage and he said he would try to do something
20 about it, but I want these guys to hear that if
21 something happens in late fall, it was in October, and
22 everything was all shut down. So maybe we should try
23 and stay a little bit longer because the weather has
24 changed.

25
26 Thank you.

27
28 MR. SPARKS: Through the Chair, Vern.
29 Thank you for that comment. The fire services for BLM
30 we share them basically with the State, so the southern
31 half is done by the State and northern half is done out
32 of the Galena fire zone. You're correct. In the fall
33 time it kind of goes into a shutdown mode. I think as
34 the weather changing there, all that's pretty
35 important. We got a break with the fires last year,
36 but the year before was very challenging for BLM.

37
38 I want you to know that you can give me
39 a call in Nome if you know something locally, but
40 there's a fire number on BLM's website. You did the
41 right thing, but I thank you for that comment. It's
42 very important.

43
44 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Enoch.

45
46 MR. MITCHELL: Hi. You mentioned the
47 Squirrel project. Is that closed down and where is it
48 headed?

49
50

1 MR. SPARKS: Through the Chair, Enoch.
2 Thank you for that comment. I think we need to
3 resurrect it is what we need to do. The Fairbanks
4 office, when the magic line was still in their court as
5 you will, they did some drafts. They had a couple of
6 meetings out here and then it languished. Since the
7 Anchorage office has taken on the responsibilities, we
8 haven't carried that forward.

9
10 So we really, I think, need to take a
11 look at what's been done and perhaps like start over.
12 Because, as I said, there's been a number of changes,
13 the closure of the caribou. There's a proposal this
14 board is putting forward on moose now. There's been
15 some land status changes. So I think we need to dust
16 off that book and start again and try to push it
17 forward. I'm going to do what I can to see that that
18 gets done.

19
20 MR. MITCHELL: Can you work with Noatak
21 on this to create some solution?

22
23 MR. SPARKS: We hope to, yes.

24
25 MR. MITCHELL: One time we worked Frank
26 Hayes, the superintendent for the Kotzebue area, and we
27 did close -- we put the sport hunters on one side of
28 the river and it did work. We did get caribou closer
29 to the village. But the next year he didn't do that
30 and now there's no caribou coming through and it's not
31 cost effective for our village.

32
33 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Enoch. Go
34 ahead, Percy.

35
36 MR. BALLOT: I was just going to ask.
37 I don't know, I never heard any mention of guides or
38 transporter activity in the BLM lands up the Buckland
39 River.

40
41 MR. SPARKS: Buckland is closed for
42 guiding. The only place that we have permanent
43 transporters has been in the Squirrel River and we did
44 that through the Kobuk-Seward Land Use Plan. Anywhere
45 else we don't permit transporters. Also there's like
46 resident Alaskan hunters, people are going in -- that
47 plane color you mentioned, blue, I think that might be
48 the troopers because I seen one like that, so that's
49 what I'm thinking over there. I know of a few people
50

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1 out of Nome that hunt in the Upper Buckland and they're
2 based out of Nome and Council, but it's not very many
3 to my knowledge, but that may be happening.

4
5 I did want to mention to we do have a
6 long-term study we've been doing on the lichen in the
7 McCarthy marsh area and we're going to continue that
8 this coming up year, so you might see a little plane
9 activity come fall time up there because we're going to
10 go back and read those transects. That project has
11 been ongoing for a couple of decades now, so we're
12 going to continue that.

13
14 MR. BALLOT: I'm aware of the studies,
15 Mr. Chairman, and I appreciate your sharing of
16 information. I think that's very important. That's
17 why I brought the issue up about the plane because we
18 really don't know. I want to make sure there's nothing
19 going on up there. Hopefully with the troopers there
20 breaking the law. They need to share with us what
21 they're doing because they should be telling people not
22 to hassle caribou and stuff like that and they're doing
23 whatever they're doing. It's wrong.

24
25 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. You're
26 next. You need to say or what?

27
28 MR. SEPPI: I don't have any further
29 comments if no one has questions.

30
31 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Anyone else
32 from the board.

33
34 (No comments)

35
36 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Are you done?

37
38 MR. SPARKS: Just one staff member I
39 forgot to mention because he's off in training, but we
40 did manage to hire a new law enforcement officer and
41 we're lucky he was stationed in Nome for a few years.
42 Walker Gussey is his name and he'll be hopefully fully
43 trained up by this coming up fall season. The
44 Fairbanks law enforcement officer with BLM has been
45 patrolling the area out here in Northwest. So we're
46 hoping that Walker Gussey is going to start that as
47 well. So we're looking forward to having somebody on
48 board. It's been a while since we've had a law
49 enforcement officer out of the Anchorage Field Office.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you.

2
3 MR. SPARKS: You're welcome. It's been
4 a pleasure to be involved. Appreciate it.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. We'll move on
7 to the OSM, Jennifer Hardin and Zach Stevenson.

8
9 MS. HARDIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My
10 name is Jennifer Hardin. I'm from the Office of
11 Subsistence Management. Zach has just passed out a
12 written copy of the OSM report. I won't read it
13 verbatim here. I'm just going to go through and hit
14 the highlights for you. I'm happy to answer any
15 questions as we move through it.

16
17 First of all, we'd like to provide you
18 with a staffing update. We did lose one person since
19 we met with you last and we've also gained a few more.
20 So Amee Howard, who was our subsistence policy
21 coordinator, left OSM to take a position as the
22 Congressional and State Liaison with External Affairs
23 at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Regional Office.

24
25 Because we're under a hiring freeze
26 currently, the position of the subsistence policy
27 coordinator will only be allowed to be filled by non-
28 competitive merit reassignment or lateral hire within
29 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. So that position
30 has not yet been refilled.

31
32 We also have some new faces at OSM.
33 Hilary Krieger was hired as our new administrative
34 assistant at OSM and she'll be helping us out preparing
35 for these types of meetings as well as doing stuff in
36 the office. Hilary came to us from the Social Security
37 Administration in Anchorage.

38
39 Caron McKee was hired as our new
40 subsistence outreach coordinator. Prior to coming to
41 OSM she worked at the Bureau of Ocean Energy
42 Management. Before BOEM she was working for the
43 planning branch at the Alaska BLM office in Anchorage
44 and we're very excited to have her with us. You'll
45 probably be seeing more of her and definitely hearing
46 from her.

47
48 Finally we have a new Deputy Assistant
49 Regional Director in the office. His name is Tom
50

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1 Doolittle and he comes to OSM from his position as
2 supervisory natural resource specialist/staff officer
3 for the U.S. Forest Service working out of the Prince
4 of Wales Island for the Tongass National Forest in
5 Southeast Alaska. Prior to that he was working for the
6 National Forest in the Lower 48 and he's not new to
7 Alaska. He was also previously the Deputy Manager and
8 Supervisory Wildlife Biologist for the Yukon Delta
9 National Wildlife Refuge here in Alaska. So you'll be
10 meeting him soon I'm sure.

11
12 I'll give a quick update on the
13 Nonrural Determination Policy, which you all have
14 talked about several times over the years. Following
15 input from you and the other Regional Advisory Councils
16 and input from the public and tribes and ANCSA
17 corporations, the Federal Subsistence Board formally
18 adopted a Nonrural Determination Policy at the January
19 2017 meeting in Anchorage.

20
21 So this policy now provides guidance
22 for submission of proposals to change communities to
23 rural or nonrural status. It also provides a
24 decision-making process for those proposals and a
25 timeline to accomplish assessment of proposals.

26
27 The next call for proposals to change
28 the rural or nonrural status of communities will be
29 announced with the call for Federal fisheries proposals
30 in January of 2018. So you'll see that moving forward.

31
32 The last time we came to you we talked
33 to you about the Memorandum of Understanding between
34 the Federal Subsistence Board and the State of Alaska.
35 There aren't too many new developments on that. You
36 all provided comments to us during your last meeting
37 and we are thankful for those. Of all the comments we
38 received from Councils during the fall meetings were
39 provided to the working group that's working on the new
40 Memorandum of Understanding. We've also received
41 comments from the State of Alaska and from the various
42 Fish and Game Advisory Committees.

43
44 So that working group that's working on
45 this Memorandum of Understanding will be coming
46 together again to incorporate those comments and once
47 all the comments are integrated a new revision of the
48 Draft MOU will be presented to the Board for approval.
49 The timing of when that new draft is ready will
50

1 determine whether or not Councils will see the MOU
2 again before the Board provides approval or not to
3 approve it.

4
5 Quickly I'll give you a quick Fisheries
6 Resource Monitoring Program status update. I think you
7 all have this timeline in your packet, which we just
8 want to remind you that we are in the midst of the 2018
9 FRMP process. We issued a call for funding proposals
10 on November 23rd and that call for new proposals closed
11 on February 20th.

12
13 The next step in the process is
14 proposal review and ranking by the Fisheries Resource
15 Monitoring Program Technical Review Committee. That
16 will happen in May. During your next fall meeting you
17 will receive information about the proposals that were
18 received and will be seeking your input and your
19 comments on the Technical Review Committee's rankings
20 of those proposals.

21
22 After you all have taken a look at the
23 information, the next step in the process you'll see
24 that the ISC, the Interagency Staff Committee, will
25 provide comments on the proposals. From there all of
26 the comments that have been received, the rankings of
27 the Technical Review Committee, the Regional Advisory
28 Council comments and the ISC comments will be forwarded
29 to the Federal Subsistence Board for their
30 consideration.

31
32 The Board will next take up the
33 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program proposals in
34 January of 2018, so we still have quite a bit of time.

35
36 If you have any questions about the
37 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program, please contact
38 either myself or Stewart Cogswell at OSM.

39
40 Then finally I just wanted to let you
41 all know that for those of you that were at the Federal
42 Subsistence Board meeting in January you probably heard
43 the Board direct the Office of Subsistence Management
44 Staff to begin working with a small group of Federal
45 and State managers in Unit 23 to begin looking at areas
46 where user conflicts have been prevalent, particularly
47 as relate to caribou hunting and the high density of
48 hunting.

49
50

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1 We will be having a first meeting with
2 representatives from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,
3 the State of Alaska and the National Park Service and
4 BLM in April. The hope is that we can begin to look
5 more closely at the specific areas within the unit that
6 might be subject to future targeted closures. This is
7 just the first step in a process that will be a longer
8 discussion and we'll be coming back to you at your next
9 meeting to provide an update and talk to you more very
10 specifically about what that group is doing and will be
11 doing in the future.

12
13 That's everything I have. If you have
14 any questions, I'm happy to answer them.

15
16 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Anyone
17 from the board have a question. Go ahead, Louie.

18
19 MR. COMMACK: Earlier today I made a
20 comment about a concern on 2001 and 2002 there was a
21 Board of Game considering a 25-mile corridor from
22 Ambler up to Shelby Lake and up to Upper Kobuk because
23 of conflicts. I would like you to consider this.

24
25 Thank you.

26
27 MS. HARDIN: Thank you.

28
29 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Zach.

30
31 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
32 Just for clarification, unless there are any questions,
33 there was a second item -- forgive me for interrupting,
34 Ms. Hardin. If you were done with your presentation, I
35 also just wanted to make certain we had an opportunity
36 under the OSM update to address the sign-on letter.

37
38 MS. HARDIN: I believe you were going
39 to address that separately, but I just want to make
40 sure there are no further questions on the OSM report.

41
42 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you.
43 Any questions from the board here.

44
45 (No comments)

46
47 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: If not, are you done?
48 So are we going to go to Zach now.

1 MS. HARDIN: Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: We'll go to Zach now.

4

5 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

6 I'll be brief. Circulated a moment ago for both our
7 Council and the audience is a letter regarding the
8 published Federal Register regulations for Alaska
9 National Wildlife Refuges: Non-Subsistence Take of
10 Wildlife. Public participation in closure procedures,
11 addressed to Chairman Christianson.

12

13 I'd just ask that the Council and the
14 audience take a moment to read over that letter. The
15 question before the Council is does the Council want to
16 sign on to this letter. I've been informed that the
17 language cannot be changed, that it's been vetted and
18 approved as is. Again, the question is does the
19 Council want to sign on to this letter.

20

21 I would recommend to the Chair that
22 perhaps we take a brief break and just provide those
23 here at the Council to take a moment and review the
24 letter.

25

26 Mr. Chair.

27

28 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, that's the
29 first time I see it. I think we need to take a short
30 break. Council Members need to read this and take
31 notes for questions.

32

33 Go ahead, Louie.

34

35 MR. COMMACK: I would recommend we take
36 a short break.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Take a short break of
39 five minutes. The way I read, maybe 10.

40

41 (Laughter)

42

43 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I'm getting tired.
44 I'm trying to make everybody smile. Okay, take a few
45 minutes to read it.

46

47 (Off record)

48

49 (On record)

50

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1 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: We'll get back to our
2 meeting. I will ask Lisa to come up and explain a
3 little bit this letter.

4
5 MR. BALLOT: I think we already
6 caucused.

7
8 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: You already caucused.
9 You already decided. Okay. So you can all live with
10 it.

11
12 MR. BALLOT: We had our questions
13 answered. So I'm just going to move to support this
14 letter that was recommended regarding the non-
15 subsistence take of wildlife.

16
17 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Percy. To
18 support this letter. Do I have a second.

19
20 MR. COMMACK: I second.

21
22 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Second by Louie.

23
24 MS. LOON: I call for question.

25
26 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: The question been
27 called for. All in favor signify by saying aye.

28
29 IN UNISON: Aye.

30
31 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Opposed.

32
33 (No opposing votes)

34
35 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: None. Okay. Back to
36 our meeting. It's going to be 12(a), right, Zach?

37
38 MR. STEVENSON: No, Mr. Chair. We're
39 on the final item under agency reports, the FRMP,
40 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program, to be addressed
41 by Brendan Scanlon.

42
43 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Scanlon,
44 you're here?

45
46 MR. SCANLON: I'm here.

47
48 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead. You have
49 the floor.

50

1 MR. SCANLON: Hello, everybody. I wish
2 I could be there. This is Brendan Scanlon. I'm a
3 Northwest and North Slope fish biologist for Department
4 of Fish and Game. I spoke about two projects we had
5 funded through the FRMP at the fall meeting in Selawik.
6 The Kobuk Dolly Varden genetics project and the
7 sheefish sonar on the Kobuk.

8
9 I don't have any new information since
10 then, although we do have updated numbers for the
11 sheefish counted in the Kobuk River. We only counted a
12 little over 4,000 before the water got really high and
13 the sonar couldn't count and we had to pull out, but we
14 have at least one more year of that and we hope to get
15 a good count on that next year. I believe they did a
16 good job on the Selawik. I think they got over 20,000
17 fish through the Fish and Wildlife Service project.

18
19 We completed sampling of Dolly Varden
20 juveniles for genetics and the salmon and Tutuksuk
21 Rivers just upstream of Ambler and we collected enough
22 samples to be able to tell them apart from samples
23 collected in the Squirrel, but we need to collect more
24 to add to the baseline for stock ID for all of
25 Northwest Alaska. We'll get two more years of that.

26
27 So there should be a handout there that
28 Joshua set out for people that are interested in that
29 project. I'll just be on the line for any questions
30 about these projects or any other fish concerns.

31
32 Thanks.

33
34 MR. STEVENSON: The Chair stepped out
35 for just a moment. This is Zach Stevenson. Thank you,
36 Mr. Scanlon. Are there any questions from the Council
37 regarding the update on the Fisheries Resource
38 Monitoring Program.

39
40 Member Commack.

41
42 MR. COMMACK: Yes, briefly on the Upper
43 Kobuk spawning grounds. I think he mentioned something
44 about that. How far up is he talking?

45
46 MR. SCANLON: Thank you. We have a
47 sonar cam about 10 miles
48 upstream of the village of Kobuk at a place called Old
49 Channel. I'm sure people are familiar with it. We're
50

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1 just upstream of that. We needed to find a place that
2 was narrow enough that we could run the sonar. We need
3 about 240 feet to get good coverage. We have two, so
4 we can shoot two sonar at each other and cover a little
5 bit wider stretch of river. We know from our past
6 radio tagging data that they spawn above that, so we
7 wouldn't miss any spawners coming down working at that
8 location.

9

10 Thanks.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Enoch.

13

14 MR. MITCHELL: Scanlon, will you be
15 coming to the villages? I know some people might have
16 some questions about the Dolly Varden in Noatak.

17

18 MR. SCANLON: Okay. You have questions
19 about Dolly Varden in Noatak?

20

21 MR. MITCHELL: We have some people that
22 have questions in Noatak. I'm wondering when will you
23 be able to make it to Noatak. I have some questions,
24 but I want to know if you're going to make it to
25 Noatak.

26

27 MR. SCANLON: I wish I could be there
28 today, but I will be in Kotzebue the middle of May to
29 fly up to Noatak and down the Wulik to look for our
30 radio-tagged fish and then I was going to land on the
31 Wulik upstream of Kivalina and we have a sonar cam
32 there to count moving out. Maybe I could make a stop
33 in Noatak, but anyone is free to call me anytime. My
34 contact info is on that handout and I could leave it
35 with you over the phone as well.

36

37 Do you know what the questions might
38 be? Maybe I could help you over the phone.

39

40 MR. MITCHELL: Yeah, that would be good
41 because I don't have my information with me right now,
42 but I know it's some important questions. When I get
43 back, I'll get back to you.

44

45 Thank you.

46

47 MR. SCANLON: Thank you.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: This is the other

50

1 Enoch. I've got a question for you for Noatak on the
2 trout. I know they're going up later and later and the
3 small ones are going up earlier. Do you got an idea
4 why? Because as a commercial fisherman we get trout a
5 lot earlier now and less fall time the other way.

6
7 MR. SCANLON: I know from our radio
8 tagging and aerial survey radio tagging we did on the
9 Noatak and aerial surveys we do on the Wulik in the
10 fall time that things certainly are later in the fall.
11 We were able to count fish from helicopter October 13th
12 this year. The river didn't even have ice on it yet.
13 That's really really late. Usually we have to be done
14 by about the 20th of September. This was the earliest
15 breakup in Northwest Alaska that the National Weather
16 Service has seen in 40 years. The Wulik was out
17 completely by April 15th. This was a really late fall
18 and real early spring this past year.

19
20 As far as what the small ones are
21 doing, we don't get to handle a lot of those. You
22 would know more than I would on the timing. I know the
23 bigger fish seemed to come in for overwintering later
24 and later because they have more time to do that
25 because the rivers just aren't freezing up as soon as
26 they were in the past.

27
28 I hope that helps.

29
30 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Go ahead,
31 Zach.

32
33 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
34 Just for point of clarification, Mr. Scanlon, if I
35 understood correctly, if Mr. Mitchell had questions or
36 wanted to explore scheduling a presentation before
37 residents of Noatak, he would contact you by telephone
38 at (907)459-7268, is that correct?

39
40 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

41
42 MR. SCANLON: Yep, that's correct.

43
44 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you.

45
46 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Anyone else have a
47 question.

48
49 MR. BALLOT: Yeah, Mr. Chairman. I was
50

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1 just going to mention that too. If you're doing a
2 study in a certain area like Noatak, he was requesting
3 to have this information to be shared with their
4 members in Noatak. So I thought that I didn't
5 understand. Me, I kind of would want a little more,
6 you know. I would say, hey, man, you're doing this
7 study on our Dolly Varden, it would be nice to try too
8 while you're sharing your studies.

9
10 MR. SCANLON: You're right, we don't
11 always do a great job of sharing that kind of
12 information, but we certainly try to. If there is a
13 spring Noatak/Kivalina AC meeting, I'll try to come to
14 that and talk to people about what we're doing.
15 Getting travel approval these days for state travel has
16 been kind of difficult. That's why I'm not there
17 today. I'll certainly try. I really like coming to
18 Noatak. In the last 10 years we've done some work on
19 the trout up there. I will make it a point to try to
20 come to the next AC meeting if that helps.

21
22 MR. BALLOT: I was just going to
23 mention too, Mr. Chairman, there was some folks
24 floating on the Buckland River some time ago. They
25 were catching all kinds of fish and there's Dolly
26 Varden up there, Arctic char and stuff. I didn't know
27 when you talk about genetics and if there's ever going
28 to be expanded studies in regard, I just wanted to
29 share that information.

30
31 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead.

32
33 MR. SCANLON: Thank you. Yeah, we
34 don't know much of anything about the Buckland River.
35 Not much of it falls into Federal land, so I don't
36 believe we can get money through the FRMP to do any
37 work on the Buckland. Maybe Karen Hyer would be the
38 person to talk to on that.

39
40 MR. BALLOT: Okay, thank you. That's
41 okay. That's all for the good. The less they know,
42 the less they come.

43
44 (Laughter)

45
46 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Right. You got that
47 right, Percy. Enoch Mitchell had one.

48
49 MR. MITCHELL: I could remember a

50

1 couple questions. There's this green-like hairs or
2 something that growing on the bottom of the river that
3 cling to the rocks. People want to know what's that.
4 Another question, is there something like little worms
5 stuck on the tails of some Dolly Varden and they're
6 wondering what's that too.

7
8 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, can you
9 answer it or try?

10
11 MR. SCANLON: I'll try. Thank you, Mr.
12 Mitchell. Without seeing any of that, evidence of that
13 or photos or anything -- am I still there?

14
15 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, you're here.

16
17 MR. SCANLON: Oh, okay. I heard a
18 beep. Sorry. The green stuff on the bottom of the
19 river is probably just (indiscernible). It's natural
20 and it feeds the bugs and it's a good thing.

21
22 As far as the worms on the trout, I
23 don't ever remember seeing any. I've seen lamprey
24 scars, but those are usually healed. The lamprey
25 aren't parasitic in fresh water, so they fall off. So
26 if someone catches a fish with worms on them and they
27 can get them to Kotzebue Fish and Game, I can get them
28 to the pathology lab. So that's new to me, but I'd be
29 interested in helping to find out what that is.

30
31 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Since you said
32 sending some samples to you, could you tell us if it's
33 better frozen or unfrozen to send to you?

34
35 MR. SCANLON: That's a great question.
36 Unfrozen is preferred but we can take frozen or
37 pictures and descriptions help and location where the
38 fish was caught. Certainly unfrozen it's great. It's
39 got to get to Anchorage. If you get to Kotzebue Fish
40 and Game, we'll pay for the shipping. I know it's
41 difficult out there to do that, but fresher is better.

42
43 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Anyone
44 else. Go ahead, back to Enoch Mitchell.

45
46 MR. MITCHELL: Thank you. I'll try to
47 do that. I just wanted to mention we never seen these
48 around before until recently. Maybe climate change or
49 getting too warm or something.

50

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1 MR. SCANLON: I'm not a parasitologist.
2 I don't know a lot about worms. Maybe if I can come up
3 there for the AC meeting you guys can take me fishing.

4
5 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, thank you. Go
6 ahead, Zach.

7
8 MR. STEVENSON: Through the Chair, to
9 briefly respond to the point raised by Member Mitchell.
10 There are several different tools that are available to
11 Alaskans who observe things that don't look normal. If
12 the Council would like, we could share that information
13 at our fall meeting.

14
15 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

16
17 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, thank you.
18 Anyone else have a question. Go ahead, Calvin.

19
20 MR. MOTO: Yeah, we do get Dolly Varden
21 once the ice goes out, but we don't use nets. We use
22 rod and reel. Sometimes we get 30 in 15 minutes
23 especially when they first come in. This is one of our
24 other source of fish that we use, you know. We don't
25 cut them this way. We just split them from the back
26 and open them just like we do whitefish, you know.
27 They keep for a while. I've had some in my freezer for
28 a year and cook them. They're still good. So I just
29 thought I'd bring that up because we do fish trout
30 differently.

31
32 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, thank you. Are
33 you done?

34
35 MR. SCANLON: That's all I have, but
36 I'd be willing to take more questions.

37
38 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. There's
39 another one. Go ahead, Percy.

40
41 MR. BALLOT: I'm just going to comment.
42 I heard about some of the stuff that happened down
43 states and they found a kind of algae and algae grows
44 from furbearing animals or whatever, takes oxygen away
45 and when you lose oxygen. I don't know if that's what
46 it is, but if it's green, that's what it said, green.

47
48 MR. SCANLON: Thank you.

49
50

1 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. If you're
2 done, we will go to 13, confirm 2017 meeting dates and
3 locations. To refresh your memory, I know the Federal
4 is short of money, but they say they haven't hired
5 someone in a while, so they could probably use that
6 money because I know Vern requested one at Shungnak.
7 They never filled your request.

8
9 MR. CLEVELAND: I'd rather have it
10 here. If we're short of money, we'd rather have it
11 here in Kotzebue. Thank you.

12
13 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. I've got no
14 problem with it. Go ahead, Zach.

15
16 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
17 Just to clarify, responding to Member Cleveland's
18 point, the minutes reflect the request made at our
19 October 5 and 6, 2016 fall meeting to hold our fall
20 2017 meeting in Shungnak. That point was noted and
21 it's reflected in the minutes. If you look at Page 116
22 of your meeting book, the fall meeting for 2017 for
23 Northwest Arctic is reflected on October 25, 2017,
24 which is a Wednesday, and October 26, 2017.

25
26 So just to clarify, yes, that point was
27 heard. It's reflected in the minutes and it's
28 reflected in your meeting books.

29
30 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

31
32 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Go ahead,
33 Hannah.

34
35 MS. LOON: I think it's very important
36 that our communities
37 take part in the decisions that we are making as RAC
38 members to be engaging. It's really wonderful. In
39 Kiana, we had a really good meeting and in Selawik we
40 had good meeting and student engagement. The people
41 appreciate it.

42
43 I think we should go ahead with
44 Shungnak and do as we planned in Selawik.

45
46 MR. STEVENSON: In Shungnak.

47
48 MS. LOON: I mean Shungnak. I'm sorry.
49 Thank you. I make a mo -- oh, sorry.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I hear what you are
2 saying, Hannah, and you and I are in the same boat, but
3 they're requesting here due to funding, if I hear it
4 right from the staff.

5
6 Go ahead, Zach.

7
8 MR. STEVENSON: If I may make a
9 recommendation to the Chair. If it's the will of the
10 Council to have the meeting in Shungnak, it couldn't
11 hurt to request it and if it turns out the monies are
12 tight, we could address that as a follow up. I don't
13 think there's any harm in asking.

14
15 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

16
17 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Let me ask the board
18 just raise of hands. Who want to have one in Kotzebue
19 raise their right hand for fall.

20
21 MR. COMMACK: Can we check to see how
22 the funding is going to be before we do anything?

23
24 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: The alternate could
25 be if they don't have any funding they could have it
26 here in Kotzebue. That's why I was asking the Staff
27 earlier what does the funding look like and I just had
28 looks toward me. Oh, money lady is coming up.

29
30 (Laughter)

31
32 MS. HARDIN: This is Jennifer Hardin
33 for the record, not the money lady. I just wanted to
34 say we don't know what the budget looks like at this
35 point. We're in the middle of a transition in the
36 Federal government, so we just don't have the
37 information.

38
39 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Lets just plan
40 to have it in Kotzebue. In the future we will go to
41 Shungnak. Let's put it that way. Okay?

42
43 MR. COMMACK: Wonderful.

44
45 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I need a motion to
46 have it in Kotzebue.

47
48 MR. CLEVELAND: I make a motion to have
49 a meeting here in Kotzebue October 25 and 26.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead.

2

3 MR. KRAMER: Just to add on to Vern's,
4 request that we have reindeer soup made by Enoch Shiedt
5 next time in Kotzebue.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I can't kill Rudolph.
8 I'll put it that way. I've got grandkids. Okay, we
9 will have one here in Kotzebue this fall and sounds
10 like they want to have a potluck.

11

12 MR. STEVENSON: Do you want to call for
13 that vote?

14

15 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, call for the
16 vote. What dates are those?

17

18 MR. STEVENSON: Through the Chair.
19 October 25 is a Wednesday and October 26 is a Thursday,
20 so the intention would be to have our RAC members
21 arrive the afternoon of October 24th. The meeting
22 would start at 9:00 October 25 and October 26 and end
23 each day at 5:00 p.m. RAC members would return home
24 the morning of Friday, October 27.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: You guys hear that?
27 Possibly October 25, 26 here.

28

29 Go ahead, Maya.

30

31 MS. LUKIN: Just so you all know, AFN
32 is October 19th and 21
33 in Anchorage.

34

35 MR. STEVENSON: It will not affect us.

36

37

38 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: It would not affect
39 us. We'll have ours a few days later. Thank you,
40 Maya. We need to vote on it. All in favor having the
41 meeting here in Kotzebue October 25, 26, 2017 all in
42 favor signify by saying aye.

43

44 IN UNISON: Aye.

45

46 (No opposing votes)

47

48 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I think we're getting
49 tired. Okay. Now for our winter meeting for 2018. I

50

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1 need the possible dates, please, Zach.

2

3 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
4 The possible dates are featured on Page 117 of your
5 meeting books. Right now we have the timeframe of
6 February through March of 2018.

7

8 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman.

9

10 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Percy.

11

12 MR. BALLOT: I would just suggest that
13 -- do you really need a date right now? We like to
14 come over for our regionals and I think it would be
15 real good to get that date. If you get it within a
16 month or two months from now, it will probably be
17 around this time. Can we do that?

18

19 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: So how much notice do
20 you need for us for the record to start having -- you
21 know, the process of having this meeting.

22

23 Go ahead, Zach.

24

25 MR. STEVENSON: The issue is that at
26 OSM because of limited staff we can have no more than
27 two RAC meetings overlapping at the same time. So if
28 someone else blocks in the timeframe, that will be
29 locked in. So we're just trying to get this done in a
30 timely way. We're trying to get this locked in as soon
31 as possible.

32

33 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

34

35 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman. What if we
36 said March 1 to 7, would that be a lock in?

37

38 MR. MITCHELL: Mr. Chair.

39

40 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I'm trying to get the
41 dates here, okay.

42

43 MR. MITCHELL: Could we decide the
44 winter meeting at the fall winter meeting?

45

46 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: We're trying to get
47 winter meeting for 2018, dates. February 27 and 28
48 open.

49

50

1 MR. KRAMER: March 1 and 2.

2
3 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Hannah.

4
5 MS. LOON: I think this meeting the
6 dates are real good. Maybe it's close to the regionals
7 either February 28 to 1 or March 1 and 2. Thank you.

8
9 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. The dates I
10 hear from Hannah are February 28 -- it's not going to
11 be a leap year, is it?

12
13 MS. MAAS: No.

14
15 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay.

16
17 MR. BALLOT: March 1 and 2 is Thursday,
18 Friday.

19
20 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I know. We need to
21 have it Wednesday, Thursday if possible.

22
23 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman.

24
25 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. We'll have it
26 Wednesday and Thursday of February 28 and March 1.
27 Travel on Tuesday and return on Friday.

28
29 Go ahead, Zach.

30
31 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
32 Just to clarify, the intent would be to have RAC
33 members arrive the afternoon of Tuesday, February 27th,
34 2018, have the spring RAC meeting on February 28th and
35 March 1st, and return home the morning of March 2nd.
36 The meeting would run from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
37 daily, correct?

38
39 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yes. Is that okay
40 with the Council Members. Go ahead, Hannah.

41
42 MS. LOON: The Council members were
43 discussing the Caribou
44 Working Group with two representatives from other RAC
45 Councils. They wanted to meet two days prior to the
46 Northwest RAC meeting. I just wanted to remind the
47 Council if they still want to meet a couple days before
48 the RAC meeting.

49
50

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1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. They
4 probably will hear our dates and they will probably
5 will try to set one right around that time. I'm not
6 going to tell them what to do. We'll
7 provide them with our dates. Maya and her people could
8 share the dates with them.

9

10 Go ahead, Enoch.

11

12 MR. MITCHELL: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
13 It says on here the meeting dates and locations are
14 subject to change. We can pick a date now, but when we
15 find out when the regionals are, could we change that
16 at the next fall meeting? Change the dates.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Percy.

19

20 MR. BALLOT: I second it.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: You second Enoch is
23 what he's saying. Okay. I'm just going to ask OSM
24 Staff to say how long do you need to know definite
25 dates for sure? I'm not trying to put them in a bind,
26 but they got to go through that process. I want those
27 dates. I've got no problem with it.

28

29 MR. STEVENSON: Can I clarify the time
30 constraints that we have for selecting a date.

31

32 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, I will live
33 with 28 and 1. Let's put it that way. I hardly go.
34 The reason why my granddaughter was there and I go
35 watch yesterday.

36

37 MR. MOTO: Call for question.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Calvin, you had
40 something.

41

42 MR. STEVENSON: Calvin called the
43 question.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Calvin called the
46 question. All in favor signify by saying aye.

47

48 IN UNISON: Aye.

49

50

1 (No opposing votes)

2

3 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Here in Kotzebue.
4 Closing comments. It looks like Vern wants to start.

5

6 MR. CLEVELAND: I'd like to thank the
7 Staff, all the reports on everything. Maya, Susan. A
8 lot of good information. I'd like to thank you all for
9 being patient with us.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you,
14 Vern. Enoch.

15

16 MR. MITCHELL: Thank everybody here for
17 everything. Thank the Staff. Everybody that come here
18 thanks for attending and listening to us and giving us
19 input. A lot of good information.

20

21 I'd also like to apologize to the
22 members if I affect anybody by saying anything. I
23 didn't mean to hurt anybody. What we always have to go
24 through. Have a good and safe year and have a safe
25 trip home.

26

27 Thank you very much.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, Enoch, you're
30 right. It's okay to head butts once in a while, but I
31 just ask one thing from all Council Members. When the
32 meeting over with, just be another person, another
33 person. Just forget what happened here and just live
34 our daily life. Don't worry about it. We all got to
35 butt heads once in a while because you're doing your
36 thing, we're doing our thing, they're doing their
37 thing. Don't worry about it.

38

39 Okay. Anyone else. Raymond, go ahead.

40

41 MR. STONEY: For the RAC meeting I know
42 you guys have done a lot of work to prepare this RAC
43 meeting here in Kotzebue. Thank you so much. And I
44 want to thank all our RAC members. It was nice meeting
45 with you guys again today and yesterday.

46

47 Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yes. And I would

50

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1 like to thank Raymond. He did a good service for a
2 couple years. He did good. It's a hard shoe to fill
3 for an elder like that to be here.

4
5 Anyone else.

6
7 MR. BALLOT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
8 I appreciate the work our Staff did. They got a good
9 employee when they got Maya for the Park Service. I
10 miss her where she was at. I think my term is up in
11 2017. I did reapply, Zach, so I hope I get to be here
12 fall time or I'm going to be okay. Anyway, thanks
13 everybody.

14
15 I'll bring that caribou. That guy is a
16 good cook, so we haven't had his cook for a long time,
17 so I'll bring the meat.

18
19 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: You still trust me?

20
21 (Laughter)

22
23 MR. MOTO: I want to thank you guys for
24 another enjoyable meeting. I always enjoy coming to
25 these meetings. All these different ideas and things
26 we toss at each other. Sometimes maybe we glare at
27 each other, but, all in all, we work pretty good
28 together I think. I'll see you guys again in the fall
29 maybe, maybe before.

30
31 Bye. Thank you.

32
33 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Anyone else. Go
34 ahead, Louie.

35
36 MR. COMMACK: I'd like to thank the
37 Staff and putting all this together. Just a reminder
38 that I think the second week of April we'll be having
39 Kobuk Valley Subsistence Resource Commission meeting
40 and a couple days later we'll be having our Gates of
41 the Arctic Subsistence Resource Commission meeting. So
42 it's back to back. Any comments, concerns you might
43 have regarding the Gates or the Kobuk Valley, feel free
44 to get a hold of us.

45
46 And I want to thank this board for
47 nominating me for the Gates of the Arctic. I've served
48 as chair for three years and I think it's time that
49 somebody take over for the Gates. Most likely one of
50

1 the people from the 42 villages, Tanana Chiefs or North
2 Slope or somebody. I'm just not going to be chair.
3 It's so much work. Got to take a break. I just want
4 you to know. Thank you very much for your confidence.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Louie.
7 Go ahead, Hannah.

8
9 MS. LOON: Taikuu to the Staff, all of
10 you that prepared your report to us and help us decide
11 on the biology and numbers. Your work is very
12 important for us to understand and for us to relay the
13 message to our villages.

14
15 Thank you very much RAC Council Members
16 for your input. Enoch, keep on sending your proposals
17 and I encourage Louie to write a proposal for this
18 coming fall to put a 25-mile corridor for his region.
19 I'll go ahead and send it to your Gates of the Arctic
20 and mention those and bring it there.

21
22 And thank you, Raymond, for all your
23 leadership all these years. I really appreciate that.
24 Thank you very much.

25
26 MR. STONEY: Thank you.

27
28 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Are you
29 ready, Mike?

30
31 MR. KRAMER: Yeah, thank you to all the
32 Staff and Genius Jose for coming. It was good to see
33 Genius here and all the Staff that come here and do
34 their presentations. I kind of would like to start
35 seeing a lot more -- you know, now that we're going to
36 have the next two meetings in Kotzebue, start seeing
37 some more village tribal governments here hopefully by
38 this coming fall.

39
40 Since we're going to have the meeting
41 here, it would be interesting to see if they could come
42 to them because we're going to be here for the next two
43 meetings. Their representation is key to our survival.
44 I don't hunt up the Noatak very much anymore and it
45 would be very good to hear from -- have them here. I
46 know most of them are over there probably rattling the
47 walls off the gym. It's always good to have them here
48 and to be able to share their thoughts and their
49 concerns about Federal subsistence issues.

50

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1 Thank you to Raymond for all his years
2 of service and being our Chairman. Now we have Attamuk
3 and I'm vice chair. I have some shoes to fill.
4 Hopefully it will be an interesting spring and coming
5 fall.

6
7 Thank you.

8
9 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Zach, go ahead and
10 say what you were trying to say to me.

11
12 MR. STEVENSON: Through the Chair.
13 Mike, I'm wondering if you would be willing or able to
14 invite some staff or representatives of the Native
15 Village of Kotzebue to attend our fall meeting.

16
17 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

18
19 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you.
20 Me, I would like to thank the Staff. I mean this crew
21 is fantastic. Always have an answer when we ask. Not
22 only me, but always have an answer for the Council.
23 Maya and your crew, they can't get any better and I
24 don't want to see any changes. They're doing great.

25
26 And I thank you guys for having
27 confidence in me to Chair your meeting. It do get hard
28 once in awhile, but I'll do my best
29 because I want to protect this land here.

30
31 Before I say my my closing comments,
32 there's two other things I want to add for you people
33 to think about, the Staff and the Council. I told you
34 I do a lot of research and the head of all
35 superintendents, I got a word that he said for the
36 predator control in the Parklands, correct me if I'm
37 wrong, that is not in stone. We could eventually have
38 predator control in our Federal lands.

39
40 You don't have to answer it now. You
41 can answer it later, but I heard it's not in stone from
42 supervisors of all supervisors.

43
44 The other one I would like to see,
45 Noatak Preserve do the study on how much transporters
46 and outfitters have impact on us Natives. I think it's
47 very important. We cry about transporters and
48 outfitters, but we need to do a study of how bad is it
49 in the villages and I'm going to ask them to do a study

50

1 how bad the impact is on us because it do put a
2 hardship to us.

3
4 I'm trying to do the best outlook for
5 the gifted area. Thank you.

6
7 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman.

8
9 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yes.

10
11 MR. BALLOT: Are we done?

12
13 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yes, we're done.

14
15 MR. BALLOT: So I move to adjourn.
16 Just one thing. You know we have our celebration of
17 life April 31. March 1 and 2 we have Miss Alaska USA
18 and we have Byron Nicholai up there and I don't know if
19 anybody want to share with us, come by.

20
21 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, you hear that
22 invitation. I guess Mike has something to say now.

23
24 MR. KRAMER: We also wanted to share
25 our condolences to the Lincoln family who lost a loved
26 one the other day. Our condolences and our
27 heartfelt.....

28
29 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Sorry I overlooked
30 it. I was going to bring it up. Sorry. Yeah, thank
31 you for reminding me. Meeting is not adjourned.

32
33 Hold it, hold it. Maya, you want to
34 take a picture? The crew. Okay, take a picture. The
35 board and maybe the staff too.

36
37 MS. LOON: I second the motion to
38 adjourn the meeting.

39
40 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Maya is going to take
41 a picture. We're done.

42
43 (Off record)

44
45 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

46
47
48
49
50

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1 C E R T I F I C A T E

2
3 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
4)ss.
5 STATE OF ALASKA)
6

7 I, Salena A. Hile, Notary Public in and for the
8 state of Alaska and reporter for Computer Matrix Court
9 Reporters, LLC, do hereby certify:

10
11 THAT the foregoing pages numbered 1 through
12 282 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the
13 NORTHWEST ARCTIC FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY
14 COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME II taken electronically on the
15 2nd day of March 2017 at Kotzebue, Alaska;

16
17 THAT the transcript is a true and
18 correct transcript requested to be transcribed and
19 thereafter transcribed by under my direction and
20 reduced to print to the best of our knowledge and
21 ability;

22
23 THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or
24 party interested in any way in this action.

25
26 DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 11th
27 day of March 2017.

28
29
30
31 _____
32 Salena A. Hile
33 Notary Public, State of Alaska
34 My Commission Expires: 09/16/18
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